THE TEAM EXCELLENCE AWARD OF MERIT

AIEA-MOANALUA-RADFORD INDUCTION & MENTORING TEAM

Christine Braga, left, and Sue Bevacqua

Sue Bevacqua and Christine Braga provide differentiated, personalized support for the 55 beginning teachers at 22 schools under their charge. Throughout the year, they create an environment of trust and camaraderie by coordinating free Professional Development for-credit courses for their beginning teachers, sponsoring Professional Leaning Community meetings for mentors and mentees to share successful classroom strategies and network, and monitoring funded and non-funded activities for our schools and teachers. They support teacher achievement by working with principals, personnel officers, complex area business managers and support staff to monitor the progress of beginning teachers and raise the percentage of highly qualified teachers. As a result, the Complex Area achieves and maintains one of the highest percentages of highly qualified teachers at 94 percent.

— Nominated by Tricia Tamayose Okamura, School Renewal Specialist

KAPOLEI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OFFICE TEAM

From left: Denise Lee, Karie Gomban, Wanda Goo, Alyson Mauel, Muriel Takano, Leslie Veazie

The Kapolei Elementary School office is the heart of the school. With a student comes first philosophy, they have adopted an effective, flexible, and proactive approach to their duties that insure smooth, continuous operations of the front office. With safety in mind, they can be seen opening car doors in the morning and accompanying highly allergic students on field trips. They participate in school dress-up days and volunteer at school activities in the spirit of raising school pride and morale. They exemplify the characteristics of an outstanding team by their welcoming and caring attitude to all who walk through the doors of Kapolei Elementary. No matter what they are asked to do, they always maintain a "can do" attitude for the interest of their students.

— Nominated by Principal Cindy Otsu

OLOMANA SCHOOL'S CSSS TEAM

From left: Sheri Dennis, Tuli Esene, Mike Silva, Bob Christenson, Wilisoni Fatafehi, Kelli Taniguchi

Olomana's Comprehensive Student Support System (CSSS) team counselors are tasked with improving student learning by addressing student behavior at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility, Detention Home, and Olomana Youth Center. They serve students who come from turbulent families, experienced violence and bereavement, exhibit the highest risk behaviors to academic achievement and social adjustment and various levels of incarceration. Since 2008, the team has focused on improving student outcomes through the Positive Behavior Intervention and Support System (PBIS). In 2013-14, the team consulted, collaborated, and monitored student progress with the assistance of Academic Review Team (ART) and Response to Intervention (RTI) to support students and their teachers. The team has seen significant improvements in key markers of success: higher average daily attendance, increased achievement of reading scores, decreased retention rate of 9th graders, and increased on-time graduation rates.

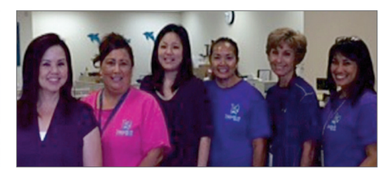
— Nominated by Principal Stacey Oshio

STRIVE HI

2016 Incentive & Service Awards Program

Recognizing Department employees for special and continued contributions to improve the quality and effectiveness of school services.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2016 | HAWAII STATE CAPITOL AUDITORIUM



STRIVE HI
Our Students • Our Future • Our Promise

2016 Incentive & Service Awards Program

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

LOWELL KALANI SPENCER

School Custodian, Honowai Elementary

Lowell Kalani Spencer is the head custodian for Honowai Elementary school. He maintains the physical plant and supervises a custodial staff to reflect a feeling of ʻohana and lōkahi. Under eight years of his supervision, the campus has blossomed with native Hawaiian plants in well-manicured gardens and maintained buildings. He has built capacity with his team with a critical eye and gentle words and created seamless maintenance of Honowai Elementary during temporary staffing shortage. He is a problem solver on campus who assisted with the installation of the indoor aquaponics project and a three-tiered taro loʻi for STEM learning opportunities for students. He is described as a modern version of the legendary menehune of old, who got this done quietly, efficiently, and effectively.

— Nominated by Principal Kent Matsumura

SUSTAINED SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE AWARD

EDGAR YOSHIDA, *Audio-Visual Technician, Baldwin High*

Edgar Yoshida responds with expertise and a positive demeanor to the needs of the staff and students. His technical knowledge enables him to bridge the gap between the old and new systems and reducing equipment costs to the school. When presented with a problem, his solution is reliably the most cost efficient and safest. For a number of years, he has been a mentor and instructor to students in the Performing Arts Pathway to develop skills in stage management. Edgar lives the school motto of P-R-I-D-E: Personal Responsibility In Developing Excellence. For 23 years, he has demonstrated competence, commitment, caring, and initiative beyond his responsibilities. According to Principal Kilborn, "Edgar is your man" for the best solutions and a willing helping hand.

— Nominated by Principal Catherine Kilborn

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

FRANCIS SANTA MONICA

Cafeteria Manager, Ewa Makai Middle

Francis Santa Monica embraces the school's vision to Empower, Explore, and Excel together by supporting the school community. With his vast experience in the food service industry, he has systematically transformed and modified the function and efficiency of lunch preparation, service, and management. Teachers describe him as the "heart of the school" because of the compassionate and thoughtful ways he contributes to the school and community.

He trained student volunteers in the art of service and waiting tables for the grand opening of Ewa Makai Middle and provided uniforms for an authentic experience. Ewa Makai Band Director John Iyoki said he has been a vital partner with the booster club by coordinating food and beverages for special events. From the large school organizations to the individuals, Francis is concerned with everyone's well-being. He sets aside lunches for students involved with school activities, prepares special bentos and gourmet meals for school events, has initiated a lunch delivery service for teachers involved with lunchtime activities, and has posted illustrations to help ELL students.

The Ewa Makai Middle student body vice president remarked that "Mr. Santa Monica is a role model for us. He supports our after-hours service and community learning projects with healthy snacks and refreshments and words that never fail to bring a smile to our faces."

Principal Edward Oshiro agrees that in his 46 years as a teacher, administrator, and principal, he has not met and worked with an exemplary manager like Francis Santa Monica.

— Nominated by Principal Edward Oshiro and Student Activities Coordinator Vanessa Ching

TEAM OF THE YEAR

WINDWARD DISTRICT OFFICE AUTISM TEAM

Twenty-three team members: Aletha Sutton, Brendan Ahern, Jennifer Bishop, Kali Carvalho, Bianca Chang, Heather Chapman, Verna Choy, Kari Crisler, Cynthia Hopkins, Rochelle Kekauoha, Danielle Mizuta, Carey Motohiro, Jon Motohiro, Meg Murphy, Roxanne Rokero, Melanie Sakai, Jakriz Villahermosa-Madsen, Dayna Williams, Tomoko Yokooji, Diane MacDonald, Ashley Tani, Aida Mercades, Travis MacDonald; plus 45 highly trained Autism Educational Assistants.

The "A" Team successfully addresses the wide range of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) with evidence-based practices, professional development, and innovation to serve their pre-K to high school population. To improve the life of students with ASD, they provide training and support to educators, families, and community members. With intensive training throughout the year, their staff includes educational assistants, para-professionals, and Board-certified Behavior Analysts who are current with the latest practices and techniques. They share their expertise with educators through Intensive training classrooms that provide virtual walkthroughs that allow the witnessing of best practices in action.

The expertise and accomplishments of the "A" Team are recognized throughout the state. Parents comment that their training sessions that include peers, families, and teachers have benefited them in understanding and dealing with their child's learning disabilities.

— Nominated by Dr. Aletha Sutton, District Educational Specialist, Windward Autism Program

Send a shout-out to your favorite public school employees! #HIDOEteam

The Program

The Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) celebrates outstanding employees during the Annual Incentive and Service Awards ceremony, recognizing HIDOE employees for special and continued contributions to improve the quality and effectiveness of school services. Their dedication inspires all of us who are working to make Hawaii's public schools better for all students.