

Sept. 1
2005
#05-14

★ Sheri Kojima is 2006 State Teacher of the Year

SHERI KOJIMA, business education teacher at **Waiakea High**, was named Hawaii's **2006 State Teacher of the Year** during the Board of Education meeting at Radford High on September 1. The Hawaii District Teacher of the Year began teaching business education in 1990 at Hilo High, followed by two years at Laupahoehoe High, and another three at Hilo High before settling in at Waiakea High in 1996. Sheri has served for more than 11 years as advisor to her schools' DECA clubs, and is active in church and

community activities. In 2002, the Hawaii Business Education Association recognized her as "Secondary Educator of the Year."

"We are not teaching if students are not learning," Sheri says, adding: "The key to success in today's workforce is to make yourself marketable. I teach students to look within themselves and search for these talents, strengths, skills, and abilities. I teach them to view themselves as unique and special. Once this personal aspect is achieved, students feel confident learning new skills."

She holds a master's degree in occupational studies from California State University, Long Beach, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

The other six District TOYs were also honored at the meeting:

- **COLLEEN UEJO** – Honolulu District, **Linapuni Elementary**. Colleen is a special education preschool teacher. She also taught special education at Kaimuki Middle and worked at various private schools. She began teaching in 1971. Colleen describes why she chose teaching: "It's not for the money, and it's not for the glory. It's simply my love for children and wanting to teach them the skills that they need to get them through life."

- **JOANNE FUJITA-OSHIRO** – Central District, **Helemano Elementary**. Joanne, a 1st grade teacher, began teaching in 1990. She has also taught in kindergarten, Grade 3, and special education, and served as a resource teacher. When she was in kindergarten

herself, she was asked what she would be when she grew up. Recalling her response, Joanne says: "I wanted to be a teacher. Little did I know back then that this would lead me to such a rewarding and fulfilling career."

- **STACEY MAKANOË KAWASAKI** – Leeward District, **Waiiau Elementary**. Stacey is a 1st grade Hawaiian immersion teacher and earlier taught grades K and 6. She also lectures for the University of Hawaii Outreach College. She began substitute teaching in 1994. Stacey also mentors inservice teachers, and says: "When the university students who work with me gain an understanding of teaching

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Hawaii District

2006 Hawaii State
Teacher of the Year
SHERI KOJIMA



Maui District

Linda Yonemura



Kauai District

Ryne Terao



Honolulu District

Colleen Uejo



Central District

Joanne Fujita-Oshiro



Leeward District

Stacey Kawasaki



Windward District

Evelyn Oshima

excellence, then I have not only affected their lives but the lives of their students as well.”

- **EVELYN OSHIMA** – Windward District, **Puohala Elementary**. Evelyn, a 2nd grade teacher, has been at Puohala since 1988. She has taught grades K-3 at six public schools since 1971, including 11 years at Laie Elementary. After more than 33 years of teaching, Evelyn says: “I choose to continue to teach because I still possess the joy of teaching and the personal desire to see my students grow intellectually and socially.”

- **LINDA YONEMURA** – Maui District, **Molokai High**. Linda has taught business education in grades 9-12 at Molokai High her entire career. Joining the DOE in 1975, she now has more than 30 years of teaching experience. Linda says: “I praise students when they have done well in class and also when they have achieved outside of class.... Praise goes a long way in boosting a child’s confidence and motivation to perform better.”

- **RYNE TERAQ** – Kauai District, **Kapaa Middle**. Ryne teaches career and technical education in grades 7-8, and has served as a district resource teacher. Earlier, he taught automotive technology in grades 9-12, adult education, community college, and in the Army. He began teaching in 1984. Ryne says: “The ‘test and tune’ method in auto racing is something that I use to my advantage, as I must constantly test my students’ knowledge and then refine my teaching method based on those results.”

Mahalo to the generous sponsors of Hawaii’s District and State Teachers of the Year Program:

- **Polynesian Cultural Center**, the state program corporate sponsor for 20 years – \$500 to each District TOY and an additional \$1,000 to the State TOY;
- **Hawaii Automobile Dealers’ Association** – free one-year lease of a new car for each District TOY; and,
- **SMARTer Kids Foundation** – instructional software for each District TOY and a SMART Board and other advanced classroom technology worth several thousand dollars for the State TOY and her school.

★ Hawaii College Board SAT scores improve

Hawaii’s college-bound students all raised their scores on the 2005 College Board SAT (released Aug. 30). Nationally, scores were up, down, or unchanged.

“The last two years of verbal score gains by public school students is particularly encouraging, especially when verbal scores were flat on the national level,” said Superintendent Patricia Hamamoto. “The increase in math scores, too, kept pace with the national increase. All of Hawaii’s scores went up.”

More Hawaii details are posted at <http://doe.k12.hi.us> (home page or under News, Aug. 30). Complete reports are posted at <http://www.collegeboard.com>.

College Board SATs – 2005 and Previous 5 Years Disaggregated by School Type

		Combined		Public		Religious		Independent	
		Math	Verbal	Math	Verbal	Math	Verbal	Math	Verbal
2005	Hawaii	516	490	492	467	548	529	596	555
	National	520	508	515	505	534	539	577	553
2004	Hawaii	514	487	489	464	545	523	592	545
	National	518	508	515	505	531	537	574	555
2003	Hawaii	516	486	489	462	547	522	597	548
	National	519	507	516	504	530	535	573	550
2002	Hawaii	520	488	493	462	555	525	599	550
	National	516	504	512	500	526	531	570	549
2001	Hawaii	515	486	488	463	546	523	598	545
	National	514	506	510	502	523	530	567	549
2000	Hawaii	519	488	491	461	553	528	592	549
	National	514	505	510	501	523	529	566	547

Calendar

BOE Meetings

- Sept. 15 Hawaii (West)**
3:30 p.m. Kealahou Intermediate
- Oct. 6 Maui**
3:30 p.m. Lanai High & Elementary

BOE Committee Meetings

- Sept. 6 Public Libraries**
3 p.m.
- Sept. 13 Ad Hoc Committee on No Child Left Behind**
1 p.m.
- Sept. 13 Regular Education**
3 p.m.

BOE Community Meetings

- 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**
- Sept. 8 Waikeke High**
- Sept. 22 Leilehua High**

Holiday

- Sept. 5 Labor Day**

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Call State offices on Oahu from the Neighbor Islands using a local or “800” toll-free number:
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DOE Home Page – <http://doe.k12.hi.us>



Mahalo for your donation

Update is prepared for each BOE meeting.
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