



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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PUBLIC HEALTH EMPLOYEES HONORED

HONOLULU – The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH), is proud to announce the recipients of the annual DOH Incentive Service Awards. This year's winners include a Big Island School Health Aide as *Employee of the Year*, the Big Island District Health Officer as *Manager of the Year*, and the staff of the Hawaii State Hospital in Kaneohe as *Team of the Year*.

Employee of the Year, Annette Arruda, has been a School Health Aide for 23 years and currently works at Waiakea Elementary School. She was nominated for her willingness to go far beyond job requirements including: collecting used clothing for student emergencies, coordinating and organizing asthma camps, and participating in various school functions. In addition, she mentors co-workers and new Health Aides, covers for other sites when needed, and has an outstanding 23-year attendance record.

Manager of the Year, Karleen Yoshioka, the District Health Officer for the Big Island, was praised for her office's outstanding teamwork and collaboration with other agencies that helped create a model DOH program. Ms. Yoshioka collaborated with Mayor Harry Kim to implement an efficient and comprehensive program to prevent West Nile Virus on the Big Island. In addition, to help Hawaii County prepare for public health emergencies, Ms. Yoshioka has reached out to various agencies on the Big Island to foster cooperation and enhance the county's ability to organize and activate resources should the need arise.

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DOH Team of the Year honors went to the entire staff at Hawaii State Hospital in Kaneohe for providing excellent treatment to individuals living with severe and persistent mental illness. Through their efforts the Hospital exited the 1991 Department of Justice Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA) lawsuit in December.

In addition to seeing an end to its federal oversight, the hospital has made major improvements to its organizational structure and physical plant - including installing a state-of-the-art security management system - and developed effective and innovative treatment programs to meet the needs of the population it serves.

The DOH Incentive Service Award winners, Ms. Arruda, Ms. Yoshioka and the Hawaii State Hospital staff will represent the Department of Health in the statewide competition October 7th.

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