



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**News Release**

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GOVERNOR

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**DOH HONORS TOP PARTICIPANTS IN SCHOOL-BASED  
VACCINATION CLINICS**

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) today recognized five Hawai'i schools and its Public Health Nursing Branch for their outstanding participation in the first statewide, school-based influenza immunization program, *Protect Hawai'i's Keiki: Stop Flu at School*.

Ke Ana La'ahana Public Charter School (Big Island), Kualapuu Elementary New Century Public Charter School (Moloka'i), Sacred Hearts Academy (O'ahu), Maunaloa Elementary (Moloka'i) and Waipahu Elementary (O'ahu) were each presented a plaque by Lt. Governor James R. "Duke" Aiona Jr. in a ceremony held at the State Capitol. The five schools represent public, private, and charter schools across the state and were distinguished by having either the highest percentages of participation or greatest numbers of students participating in the program.

"The schools are happy to be recognized for their efforts in partnering with the DOH to see that students and faculty received free vaccine protection against the flu," said Schools Superintendent Patricia Hamamoto. "We definitely encourage schools and families to participate in this voluntary program when it is offered again this fall."

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“The *Stop Flu at School* program is an excellent partnership among the state, healthcare providers, educators, parents, and children,” said Lt. Governor Aiona. “This is a great example of public and private entities teaming up for the benefit of the entire community.”

The DOH Public Health Nurses were recognized for their professional excellence and service above and beyond their normal duties.

“The outstanding performance of the Public Health Nursing Branch ensured that the hundreds of vaccination clinics ran smoothly and safely,” stated Director of Health Chiyome Fukino, M.D. “We are grateful for their dedication to providing vital health services to keiki and the entire community.”

This past March, the DOH *Stop Flu at School* program received the Immunization Excellence Award for Overall 2007-08 Season Activity by the National Influenza Vaccine Summit. The program, conducted from October 2007 – January 2008, provided influenza vaccinations at no charge to over 60,000 elementary and middle school students in about 340 public and private schools throughout the state. Over 9,000 school faculty and staff were also vaccinated.

The *Protect Hawai'i's Keiki: Stop Flu at School* program will kick off again at the start of the next school year. *Stop Flu at School* consent forms are scheduled to be sent to schools for distribution to parents in the beginning of August.

*Stop Flu at School* partners included the Hawai'i State Department of Health, Hawai'i State Department of Education, Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools, and Hawai'i Catholic Schools with support from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Hawai'i chapters of the American Academy of Pediatrics and Academy of Family Physicians, Kaiser Permanente, and the Hawai'i Medical Service Association (HMSA).

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