

“This Week With Hawaii’s Law Enforcement”

Welcome Back. Now, each week, we will try to acknowledge people or agencies that have done an outstanding job in helping our communities, and who we feel are responsible for making our citizens safer in Hawaii.

This week, we'd like to recognize Honolulu Police Sgt. John Kauwenaole.

Over the past 9 years, this man has been to countless community meetings and he has been involved in the planning and implementation of so many community projects that residents in the community know him by his first name.

Sgt. John is viewed as pioneer because of his multifaceted ability to create a way for law enforcement to be involved in any community situation.

He has always had an ability to speak from the heart and be part of the solution in his community. Residents have a personal relationship with Sgt. John and they trust him enough to call him for help when they need it — knowing that he will respond and do the best he can for them.

Sgt. John is known for going above and beyond in connecting with the youth in our community. Recently, Sgt. John and his crew took 30 of the community's at-risk youth, from public housing complexes, on day-long, glass-bottom boat fishing and horseback riding expeditions. Sgt. John plans on reaching another 30 at-risk youths by the end of the year.

Sgt. John and his HPD crew also connects with the neighborhood youth by playing basketball with them in the morning before school, and these kind acts have prompted a significant amount of favorable community response.

While playing basketball with the kids, Sgt. John and his officers noticed that many had only rubber slippers (or "flip flops") and many did not have shoes.

Sgt. John then prompted a coordinated grassroots effort to conduct a shoes drive for the "Morning Basketball League." The community was able to bring in 50 brand new pairs of shoes donated from Vans and \$2,000 in monetary donations — to purchase shoes for the kids playing basketball with the officers in the morning.

Time and time again, Sgt. John has donated his own personal sound system for community events that demonstrates that law enforcement is a collaborative partner within the community. Sgt. John has also becomes the entertainment by playing Hawaiian contemporary music for the community.

I am a strong believer that heros have heart, and from knowing this man as well as I do, he has the a very kind and generous heart for our kids and our community.

Accordingly, HPD's Sgt. John Kauwenaole is this week's "Helping Our Communities - Person of the Week," and he will be notified of this recognition - with our thanks and praise.

If you know of a person in our community that has contributed so much to the safety of our citizens, please let us know by writing to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Federal Building, 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 6100, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850.