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Media Contact:

Jennifer Kuwahara

hastapresident@gmail.com

Ambassador recipient to be selected at annual science teacher conference

Honolulu, Hawaii (September 4, 2013) — The Hawaii Science Teachers Association (HaSTA) will announce the selection of the 2013 Ambassador Program recipient on September 14, 2013 as the finale of their annual conference. Now in its second year, the Ambassador Program is sponsored by Hawaiian Electric Company and provides a HaSTA member with the opportunity to attend the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) conference and further their professional development as a science educator.

“The goal of the Ambassador Program is to reinvigorate and inspire a HaSTA member’s science teaching interests,” said Jenny Kuwahara, HaSTA president. “We’re very happy that Hawaiian Electric was able to sponsor the program for the second year so we can continue to enhance science education in Hawaii.”

“As strong supporters of science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs which are foundational to success in any career, we believe the Ambassador program will give Hawaii science educators an edge in the classroom and lead to more engaged students,” said Darcy Endo-Omoto, vice president of government & community affairs at Hawaiian Electric.

Kuwahara added that the electric utility’s \$2,000 sponsorship will allow the 2013 selected recipient to attend and represent HaSTA at the spring 2014 NSTA conference to be held in Boston, Massachusetts next April. “Then, the recipient will essentially share the wealth of professional information with many of our science educators at our next annual conference,” she said.

Andrea Barnes, a science teacher at Iolani School in Honolulu was last year’s inaugural recipient of the Ambassador Program sponsorship. “Through this generous donation and great luck in having my name drawn, I made my first visit to San Antonio to attend my second NSTA conference themed Next Generation Science,” she wrote in *The Catalyst* HaSTA newsletter. Attendees at the upcoming conference will hear more of her “Lessons from San Antonio” during a one-hour session.

This year’s conference is themed Science and the Common Core. Peg Steffen, the keynote speaker, will include a discussion of the Next Generation Science Standards and the Common Core State Standards in her talk. Sessions after the keynote speech include topics such as robotics, marine education, math, science and technology connections and the Science Olympiad. Attendees are able to browse and interact with the exhibitors between sessions. Exhibitors include CRDG, Capstone Classroom, Bishop Museum, and many more.

The HaSTA annual conference will be held on Saturday, September 14, from 7:30 am-1:30 pm.. The conference is free for HaSTA members, \$10 for students and \$20 for the general public. Visit hasta.wildapricot.org for location and to register for the event.

The Hawaii Science Teachers Association's mission is to stimulate and maintain interest in science; to stimulate, improve and coordinate science teaching at all levels of instruction in the schools of Hawaii and to engage in any and all activities of furtherance thereof; to promote the improvement of educational systems and processes in the schools in any manner to assist such stimulation and coordination of science teaching; to apprise the general public of possible means of improving science teaching within the schools; to do any and all acts and things which may increase, through education, the public knowledge of science since 1974.

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