



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SELECTS 2014 EMPLOYEE AND TEAM OF THE YEAR

HONOLULU - The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) has selected Juliet Mateo as the department's 2014 Employee of the Year, and the Honolulu Harbor Molasses Spill Response Team as the Team of the Year. These two department winners will go on to compete for the state awards at the Governor's awards ceremony in October 2014.

Juliet Mateo of Waipahu is a social services assistant with the Case Management Unit of the Developmental Disabilities Division. She created internal procedures to ensure compliance with the program's policies and procedures and quality assurance initiatives. Her procedures have become best practice standards and were instrumental in her unit's success in meeting strict quality assurance performance measures for federal Medicaid reimbursement. As a result, her unit has seen a 38 percent increase in reimbursements, saving the state more than \$140,000 in 2013.

The Honolulu Harbor Molasses Spill Response Team was mobilized to investigate, evaluate, and respond to an unprecedented spill of 233,000 gallons of molasses into Honolulu Harbor from Matson's loading operations at Pier 51B on Sept. 9, 2013. The response included establishment of the Incident Command System (ICS) with DOH taking the lead and several ICS command positions staffed by the Environmental Health Administration and other programs. An organized team of more than 40 members and partner agencies conducted response activities that included daily helicopter aerial assessments, water sampling and analysis, fish collection, posting of warning signs and harbor dives.

DOH conducts an annual awards ceremony each year to recognize employees who have excelled at leadership, teamwork and public service over the previous year. Nominations of those who demonstrated superior service are submitted by subordinates, peers and supervisors both within and outside of the department.

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