



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

WESLEY LUM
DIRECTOR OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 26, 2014

Governor Salutes Hawaii's Outstanding Older Americans *Highlights Message, "Safe Today. Healthy Tomorrow."*

HONOLULU — Gov. Neil Abercrombie and the Executive Office on Aging, together with the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA), honored eight outstanding older Americans in Hawaii, two from each county, at the 48th annual Older Americans Month Awards Ceremony and Luncheon, held on May 16, 2014, at Café Julia, YWCA Laniakea.

Older adults have made countless contributions and sacrifices to ensure a better life for future generations. Since 1963, communities across the country have shown their gratitude by celebrating Older Americans Month each May. This celebration recognizes older Americans for their contributions and demonstrates our nation's commitment to helping them stay healthy and active.

Recognized for their outstanding contributions to the community, each honoree personifies the contributions Older Americans continue to make well into retirement as productive, active and influential members of society.

Hawaii County Honorees: BETTE GREEN & EDWARD MADAMBA
Honolulu City and County Honorees: LORRAINE CACERES & ARTHUR VON PLOENNIES
Kauai County Honorees: MARILYN MATSUMOTO & LOREN JOHNSON, SR.
Maui County Honorees: KANEE WRIGHT & FRED RUGE



Bottom (L-R): Fred Ruge, Kanee Wright, Marilyn Matsumoto, Lorraine Caceres; Top (L-R): Edward Madamba, Loren Johnson, Sr., Representative Gregg Takayama, Wes Lum, Arthur Von Ploennies (Missing from photo: Bette Green)



Bottom (L-R): Edward Madamba, Lorraine Caceres, Arthur Von Ploennies, Marilyn Matsumoto, Loren Johnson, Sr., Kanee Wright, Fred Ruge; Top (L-R): Wes Lum, Governor Neil Abercrombie, Jim Cisler

Also joining in salute of these exceptional individuals were Rep. Gregg Takayama and Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland.



Singing Hawaii Aloha together to close the ceremony.

During the luncheon, Gov. Abercrombie presented a proclamation designating May 2014 “Older Americans Month.” The month’s theme, “*Safe Today. Healthy Tomorrow,*” focuses on injury prevention and safety to encourage older adults to protect themselves and remain active and independent for as long as possible.

Unintentional injuries to this population result in at least 6 million medically treated injuries and more than 30,000 deaths every year. With an emphasis on safety during Older Americans Month, we encourage older adults to learn about the variety of ways they can avoid the leading causes of injury, like falls. A brochure on “What you can do to prevent falls,” was given to attendees along with a spring flower pen as favors for the event.

While the Department of Health's Executive Office on Aging provides services, support, and resources to older adults year-round, Older Americans Month offers an opportunity for us to provide specialized information and services around the important topic of injury prevention. This information will help older adults take control of their safety and live longer, healthier lives.

E Loa Ke Ola – May Life Be Long



Please visit the following websites for:

- **Pictures taken at the ceremony** (by Jay & Misty Debebar in addition to photos taken by Karen Kawamoto): <https://hawaiiolderamericansmonth2014.shutterstock.com>
- **Airdates of the Olelo coverage** (please share with family, friends and neighbors): <http://www.olelo.org/2014/05/20/older-americans-month/>

For information on resources for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and family caregivers:

- **The Hawaii Aging and Disability Resource Center**
<http://www.hawaiiadrc.org/>
or call 643-ADRC (643-2372) ♦ TTY line 643-0899

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