



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Department of Health Deputy Director Keith Y. Yamamoto receives national award for excellence in public health

HONOLULU – Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) Deputy Director Keith Y. Yamamoto has been selected by the national Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) as a 2017 recipient of the prestigious Noble J. Swearingen Award. Yamamoto was honored at an awards ceremony in Washington, DC on Sept. 20.

Each year, ASTHO recognizes individuals nationwide who demonstrate excellence in public health leadership and work tirelessly to protect and promote the public's health. Yamamoto was selected for his service as a member of ASTHO's Senior Deputies Committee in which he provided critical guidance and expertise on multiple state and territorial public health issues.

"Keith brings transformative leadership to the field of public health and embodies a genuine desire to improve the health of Hawaii's residents," said Health Director Dr. Virginia Pressler. "His accomplishments have made a difference in the lives of others and we are inspired by his commitment to lead with compassion, integrity and perseverance."

Yamamoto said, "It was an honor and at the same time very humbling to be recognized, especially knowing that I work alongside colleagues who are equally committed to improving the health and well-being of the people of Hawaii," he said.

A resident of Nuuanu, Yamamoto was appointed DOH deputy director in 2011. He oversees the department's general administration which includes budget, fiscal, facilities management, human resources, information technology and compliance. He also oversees the District Health Offices of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai; the Office of Planning, Policy and Program Development; and the Office of Health Status Monitoring.

Prior to his appointment, Yamamoto served for six years as chief of the department's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, where he was responsible for overseeing and

managing a range of adult and adolescent substance abuse prevention, intervention and treatment services statewide.

Yamamoto also previously served as program administrator for the Hawaii Department of Human Services' Office of Youth Services and managed various school-based vocational education and career development programs for at-risk youth for the Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

Yamamoto earned a master's degree in public administration from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a bachelor's in rehabilitation services from the University of Northern Colorado.

The Noble J. Swearingen Award was first bestowed in 1979 in recognition of public health administrators who have demonstrated excellence. ASTHO is a national nonprofit organization which helps state and U.S. territorial health agencies develop and implement essential programs and policies in public health priority areas.

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