



The Senate

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Senators Gilbert Kahele and Malama Solomon Recognize Hilo Restaurant Owners

HONOLULU -- Senators Gilbert Kahele and Malama Solomon, along with their colleagues in the Hawaii State Senate, honored Debra Ching Maiava and Ric Maiava of Ken's House of Pancakes in Hilo for being named 2012 Junior Achievement of Hawai'i Business Hall of Fame Laureates on March 9. They are among four local businesses named to the hall of fame.

"Ken's House of Pancakes has a long history in serving the people of Hilo," said Senator Gilbert Kahele, who represents District 2, encompassing Ka'u, Puna and Hilo. "I congratulate Debra and Ric Maiava for being able to ride the ups and downs of owning a family business and for being named to the hall of fame."

"I commend Debra and Ric Maiava for this wonderful accomplishment," said Senator Malama Solomon, who represents District 1, encompassing Waimea, Hāmākua, South Hilo, Keaukaha and Hilo. "They are shining examples of how hard work and commitment can bring great rewards."

Ken's House of Pancakes first opened its doors in Hilo in 1971 by Ken Pruitt and Bonnie Twitchell. In 1990, Lindberg and Frances Lee Ching bought the restaurant and sent Debra and Ric to run the establishment.

In 1991, the restaurant had sales of about \$1 million, and by 2011, sales had grown to over \$5 million. Today, Ken's House of Pancakes serves about two-thousand customers a day. The restaurant has earned recognition for their food and service by USA Today, Bon Appetit and its local newspaper.

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Debra and Ric are known in their community for their aloha and generosity through their support of numerous organizations. They have supported Junior Achievement fundraising events and many projects in local schools.

(Photo Caption: Senators Gilbert Kahele and Malama Solomon congratulate Debra Ching Maiava and Ric Maiava of Ken's House of Pancakes in Hilo.)

(Photo Courtesy: Office of Senator Gilbert Kahele.)

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