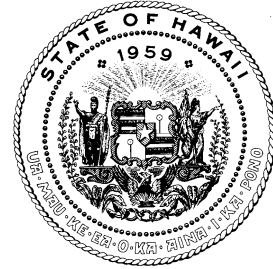


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MEDIA RELEASE

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HAWAII STATE SENATE HONORS 2011 LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR KAREN IKEMOTO

OAHU – The Hawaii State Senate recognized Kauai Librarian Karen Ikemoto for being named 2011 Librarian of the Year. As the first librarian from the Garden Isle to win the award, Mrs. Ikemoto was presented with a Certificate of Recognition from Kauai Senator Ronald D. Kouchi during a Senate Floor Presentation celebrating Education Week today.

A strong supporter of public libraries, Senator Kouchi commented, "Karen is more than deserving of the Librarian of the Year Award. She has gone to extraordinary lengths to upgrade facilities and services at the Hanapepe Public Library to better meet the needs and interests of the local community. Her humility, kindness and passion for the profession make her more than deserving of this honor."

Ms. Ikemoto has worked for the Hawaii Public Library system since 1992 and is currently Branch Manager of Hanapepe Public Library.

In its ninth year, Education Week is organized by the Hawaii State Senate Committee on Education. Focused on highlighting the success of our libraries, schools and our students, this year's celebration will include programs and events that bring everyone, from our youngest of keiki to our most mature kūpuna, to the State Capitol to educate and engage with policymakers.

(Photo caption: Senator Ronald D. Kouchi and 2011 Librarian of the Year Karen Ikemoto)

(Photo courtesy: The Office of Senator Ronald D. Kouchi)

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