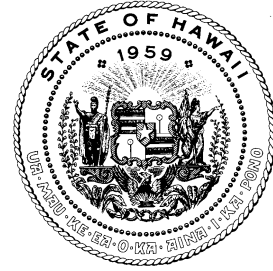


Senator Ronald D. Kouchi
Majority Caucus Leader
State Capitol, Room 206
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 808.586.6030



Media Contact: Caroline Julian/586-6261

MEDIA RELEASE

January 27, 2012

SENATOR RONALD D. KOUCHI HOSTS INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENT

OAHU - Senator Ronald D. Kouchi hosted Waimea High School student and Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange & Study (YES) Program Recipient, Tanim Zunaed Alam, at the State Capitol on Friday, January 20, 2012. Alam was participating in a one-day internship and spent the day shadowing Senator Kochi.

"It has been a genuine pleasure hosting Mr. Alam. We engaged in many interesting conversations throughout the day and I was impressed with his congeniality and his desire for knowledge. The YES program provides an excellent opportunity for students to form connections and gain valuable and unique cultural experiences." I am a strong supporter of international education, as it helps students become global thinkers and gain new perspectives."

Alam, who is from Dhaka, Bangladesh stated, "I am very grateful to have this chance to meet Senator Kouchi. The thing I most enjoyed was spending time with Senator and his staff. I have learned a lot. Spending the day with the Senator at the Capitol is one of the most unique experiences I have had in the U.S." Alam is a Senior at Waimea High School and serves on the West Kauai Bike Path Advisory Committee. He is staying with Dr. Steven Penner and his family throughout the duration of the program.

The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange & Study (YES) Program is an international exchange program between the United States and countries with significant Muslim populations. The YES Program is administered by the United States Department of State (DOS) and seeks to promote mutual understanding and respect between the United States and participating countries. In Alam's country of Bangladesh, more than 16,000 students applied for the 2011-2012 program. Out of 23 student finalists, Alam was awarded the YES Program Scholarship.

(Photo caption: Representative Dee Morikawa, Tanim Zunaed Alam and Senator Ronald D. Kouchi at the State Capitol.)

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

###