



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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Media Contact: Caroline Julian/586-6261

Senator Kouchi Attends Western Legislative Academy

Honolulu -- Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, senator for the 8th Senatorial District for the islands of Kauai and Niihau, recently received his certificate of legislative training completion from the Western Legislative Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado conducted by The Council of State Governments-WEST (CSG-WEST), a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization serving Western state legislators.

The purpose of the Western Legislative Academy is to build excellence and effectiveness in state legislators in the Western Region of the United States. The selection process is very competitive and is based on the individual legislator's commitment to public service, desire to improve personal legislative effectiveness and interest in improving the legislative process.

Senator Kouchi was one of 39 state legislators selected by the academy from 93 applicants in the Western Region to participate in its prestigious training institute for newly elected lawmakers in their first four years of service. Joining Senator Kouchi as members of the Western Legislative Academy Class of 2012 from the Hawaii State Legislature were Senator Donovan Dela Cruz (District 22), Representatives Aaron Johanson (District 31) and Representative Derek S. K. Kawakami (District 14).

"I am excited to put what I learned at the academy in motion as a legislator," said Senator Kouchi, "The skills and knowledge I gained have taught me to become a more effective legislator, which will result in further benefit to my constituents."

The academy was held during three and a half days of intensive training in subjects such as legislative institutions, ethics, communications, negotiations, time management and leadership. Faculty is drawn from academia, former military and private sector instructors. A highlight of the training is an afternoon at the US Air Force Academy, working on personal assessments and team building.

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The Council of State Governments-WEST is the western region arm of the national Council of State Governments (CSG) which is based in Lexington, Kentucky. Regional offices of the CSG are located in Sacramento, Chicago, Atlanta and New York.

(Photo Courtesy: Lynn Boutte Photography)

(Photo Caption: Senator Ronald Kouchi was among 39 state legislators who participated in this year's Western Legislative Academy.)

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