

For Immediate Release

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Healthcare Association of Hawaii Honors State Lawmakers for Commitment to Healthcare

Advocate of the Year: Representative John Mizuno; Legislators of the Year: Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Representative Scott Nishimoto, and Senator Brian Taniguchi

Honolulu - The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2018 state legislative awards. HAH is recognizing select senators and representatives for their extraordinary efforts to support access to quality care for all of Hawaii's people. This year's recipients will be honored at the Healthcare Association of Hawaii's Awards and Scholarship Gala on Saturday, October 20.



Representative John Mizuno

Achievement in Advocacy

Representative John Mizuno, Chair of the House Committee on Health & Human Services has received the Achievement in Advocacy award. He is being honored with this special HAH award to recognize his critical leadership in passing legislation that better protects healthcare workers against assault.

Throughout his legislative career, one of Representative Mizuno's legislative priorities has been accessible healthcare.

Representative Mizuno's district includes Kalihi Valley, Kamehameha Heights and a portion of Lower Kalihi.



Representative Aaron Ling Johanson

Legislator of the Year

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson Chair of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment, is being recognized for his hard work, willingness to listen, thoughtful input, and collaborations on substantive, important issues affecting healthcare in Hawaii. The award also recognizes his leadership on expanding protections for healthcare workers who are assaulted.

Representative Johanson’s district includes Moanalua, Red Hill, Foster Village, Aiea, Fort Shafter, Moanalua Gardens, Aliamanu, Lower

Pearlridge.



Representative Scott Nishimoto

Legislator of the Year

As the Chair of the House Committee on the Judiciary, Representative Nishimoto distinguished himself as a key advocate for protections for healthcare providers and patients. Most recently, during the 2018 legislative session, he worked toward the passage of the healthcare worker assault legislation to make intentional bodily harm to healthcare workers a class C felony, thereby increasing safeguards for nurses and healthcare workers who work in health care facilities or perform home care services.

Over his career, Representative Nishimoto has shown a commitment to supporting health-related causes both locally and nationally.

Representative Nishimoto’s district includes Kapahulu, McCully and Moiliili.



Senator Brian Taniguchi

Legislator of the Year

Senator Brian Taniguchi is being recognized for his support of HAH’s priority legislation to extend existing legislation to better protect healthcare workers from assault. Through the Senator’s advocacy for passage, healthcare workers throughout hospitals, as well as those caring for patients in nursing facilities and home care settings, are now protected under healthcare worker assault bill.

Senator Taniguchi represents Manoa, Makiki, Punchbowl and Papakolea.

“It is an honor for the Healthcare Association of Hawaii to recognize these outstanding legislators who are leading efforts to ensure better health outcomes across the state,” said HAH President and CEO Hilton Raethel, M.P.H., M.H.A. “With their collective efforts, we also saw the passage of critical legislation that extends protections from assaults to a greater number of our healthcare workforce, statewide.”

HAH is the nonprofit trade organization serving Hawaii’s hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, home care companies, and hospices. It is the state affiliate for national organizations that include the American Hospital Association, the American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living, and the National Association for Home Care and Hospice. Find us on Facebook and Twitter (@HealthcareHAH).

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