

High School, Oahu; Julie Tomomitsu, Maemae Elementary School, Oahu; Jenny Wells, Windward District Office, Oahu; Julia Williams, Hawaii District Office, Hawaii.

During the 2001 year the following teachers received the credential: Lisa Houston, Iliaha Elementary, Oahu; Teresa Tugadi, Pohakea Elementary School, Oahu; Lisa Yanase, Waiialua Elementary School, Oahu.

During the 2000 year the following teachers received the credential: Jill Hirota, Waiialua Elementary School, Oahu; Bess Anne Jennings, Hawaii District Office, Hawaii; Charlene Miyashiro, Waiakeawaena Elementary School, Hawaii.

During the 1999 year the following teachers received the credential: Derek Minafami, Kailua High School, Oahu; Tammie Reynolds, Mililani High School, Oahu.

During the 1998 year the following teacher received the credential: Linda Sciaroi, Chiefess Kamakahelie Middle School, Kauai.

I offer my heartfelt congratulations to them all. They have worked very hard to earn the designation, National Board Certified Teacher.

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the organization that confers this designation, is a teacher-led association, which grants national certification to a teacher only after a long and very comprehensive process. It requires the preparation and submission of a portfolio featuring videotaped classroom presented lessons, including a written analysis of the lesson, lesson plans and student work samples. The teacher must also submit written discussion, analysis, and reflective commentaries concerning other curriculum used in the classroom. A third component of the portfolio includes records of activities benefiting the larger school community, including families and activities that help to improve the teaching profession. The candidate has 3 years to complete these activities, although most complete this portfolio during one school year. Also required for this certification is successful completion of a rigorous set of examinations assessing the content knowledge of the teacher. This is a very arduous process. But in Hawaii help is available. The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, along with the Hawaii State Teachers Association, provides support groups for teachers undertaking this process. These sessions are held on the islands of Oahu, Maui, Kauai and the Big Island, and they provide a support network for the candidates as they go through the process. Most often this will be a facilitator, a teacher who has already earned the designation of National Board Certified Teacher. It is also a place to meet with other teachers undergoing the process, support each other, and sometimes to commiserate. This support goes a long way in making this very difficult process doable.

National Board Certification does not replace the teacher licensure requirements as maintained by the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, but identifies the recipient as an exemplary practitioner, someone at the top of his or her profession. It signifies the teacher as someone who is a recognized leader in the art and science of teaching. And research has shown time and again that students in classrooms with National Board Certified Teachers show larger gains on assessments than do students in classrooms not staffed with nationally certified teachers. It is the only nationally based teacher evaluation and certification program to successfully undergo a rigorous scientifically based set of evaluations, and to show improved results for the students. I am very proud to honor these newly recognized teachers.

At a time when the country is working to improve education, when the No Child Left Behind Act is demanding a highly qualified teacher in every classroom, where schools, district and states are under the gun to make adequate yearly progress, where increasingly students must demonstrate achievement as measured by a high stakes test to graduate from high school, where districts and States are working to find, hire and retain professionals in this very difficult field, and where research has shown the ability of the classroom teacher is the most important factor affecting the learning of the students, I am proud to say to these newly certified teachers "Well Done," and "Mahalo Nui Loa."•

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 418. An act to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 6. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its statutory authority to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America, in particular the periodic national and world Boy Scout Jamborees.

H. Con. Res. 26. Concurrent resolution honoring the Tuskegee Airmen for their bravery in fighting for our freedom in World War II, and for their contribution in creating an integrated United States Air Force.

H. Con. Res. 30. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the United States Group of the North Atlantic Assembly: Mr. HEFLEY of Colorado, Chairman, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Vice Chairman, Mr. REGULA of Ohio, Mr. GILLMOR of Ohio, Mr. EHLERS of Michigan, Mr. BILIRAKIS of Florida, Mr. SHIMKUS of Illinois, and Mr. REYNOLDS of New York.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-703. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Certification Procedures for Products and Parts; Type Certificates; Issue of Type Certificate; Surplus Aircraft of Armed Forces; Correcting Amendment" (RIN2120-ZZ70) received on February 8, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-704. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Standards: Transport Category Rotorcraft; Equipment: Flight and Navigation Instruments; Correction" (RIN2120-ZZ71) received on February 8, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-705. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Penalty Assessment Procedures; Correction and Technical Amendment" (RIN2120-AE84) received on February 8, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-706. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Sea Scallop and Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Framework 16 and 39" (RIN0648-AR55) received on February 7, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-707. A communication from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of