

Island Insurance Foundation
Masayuki Tokioka
Excellence in School Leadership Award

2006 Fact Sheet

- The Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award (“Award”) **was established in 2004 and is underwritten by the Island Insurance Foundation** (“Foundation”), the philanthropic arm of Island Insurance Companies, Hawaii’s largest locally owned and managed insurance carrier.
- The Award **recognizes outstanding public school principals** and their efforts to provide high-quality learning opportunities for their students. The 2006 Award will honor public high school principals.
- The Award **presents one Hawaii public school principal with \$25,000:**
 - a) \$10,000 for the recipient
 - b) \$15,000 for a school project, determined and outlined by the recipient
- The Foundation will **present all Award Nominees with a \$500 personal cash award** and a Certificate of Recognition for their outstanding service and dedication to Hawaii’s public schools. Additionally, **two (2) Semifinalists will receive personal cash awards of \$2,000 each.**
- The Award is **named in honor of Masayuki Tokioka, noted businessman and community leader, and founder of Island Insurance Companies.** Mr. Tokioka was a public school graduate.
- Hawaii public school principals are **eligible for the Award if they are or will be active principals during the year in which they will receive the Award.**
- **Award nominations are taken from Complex Area Superintendents’ nominees** for the MetLife/NASSP State Principal of the Year for Middle Level and High School.
- The **Award criteria are based on research done by The Center for the Study of Teaching and Policy at the University of Washington, *Leading for Learning: Reflective Tools for School and District Leaders.***
- The **Award Recipient and semi-finalists will be named and honored, along with the Award Nominees, at the Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation Award Dinner on Wednesday, May 17** at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom.



Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award Nominee 2006

NORMAN J. MINEHIRA

“Principals who work with Mr. Minehira look to him for leadership, guidance, and support... Mr. Minehira believes that strong school leadership is a priority. He realizes the importance of mentoring new school administrators, and he is more-than-willing to share his knowledge and experiences with them so they can gain the confidence to effectively lead their schools.”

Jan Iwase, Principal, Hale Kula Elementary School

“I view Mr. Minehira as not merely serving as the barometer for effective school leadership, but as exceeding that standard. It is difficult to articulate the essence of Mr. Minehira’s leadership because it is not something that he does; it is who he is. He is the embodiment of a great leader.”

Malaea Powell, Vice Principal, Leilehua High School

Norman J. Minehira has been the principal at Leilehua High School for 17 years. Minehira was instrumental in developing Leilehua High School’s Comprehensive Student Support System (CSSS), which connects students and families to a system of supportive relationships and services that vary in intensity to address the individual strengths and needs of students. Because of Minehira’s leadership, Leilehua has risen from years of apathy and poor performance to become one of the strongest schools in the State of Hawaii. Minehira established a philosophy among students, teachers and the community that has come to be known as the “Leilehua way” – leadership, humility, and service.

If Minehira is recognized with the Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award, he will use the funds to send a team of faculty leaders to conferences and schools outside the state. He would target schools led by exemplary school leaders and those that have been featured in education literature and success. Minehira believes the team would return prepared to move the school forward to create a new vision, one that will further strengthen instructional programs and support services.



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CATHERINE H. PAYNE

“In her position at Farrington High School, she does not command, she leads and does so in such a way that elicits the best qualities and efforts of those around her. And, she does not settle for less than the best possible outcomes.”

Neal Ikeda, SCC Vice-Chairperson, Farrington High School

“Ms. Payne has transformed Farrington – and she has been tenacious in going about it, in what was an entrenched environment, and system resistant to change. Her leadership decisions are consistently based on what is best for the students.”

Alison Colby, Social Worker, Farrington High School

Catherine H. Payne has been the principal at Farrington High School for almost 11 years. As a school leader, Payne believes that one of her most important duties is to help staff, students and parents understand and manage change. She provides encouragement and support, helping staff and students step back and see how their accomplishments in the classroom are contributing to the forward movement of the school. Payne has been instrumental in implementing a school-wide advisory program that provides each student with an adult who oversees his/her progress through all four grade levels. In addition, she has empowered her teaching staff with various leadership roles. She is confident that Farrington will be able to sustain its positive growth as teachers share more responsibilities. Throughout each day, she encourages students to follow the school’s creed of “The Farrington Way,” which expresses the values of academic excellence, respectful and morally sound behavior, citizenship and service.

If Payne is recognized with the Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award, she will use the funds to establish a “mini-grant” program to fund projects that engage students and make a difference in the community. The key criteria for projects receiving the grant would be that they impact the Kalihi community, and Farrington students would be directly involved in the service activity.



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MILTON S. SHISHIDO

“There is a deep trust, respect, and love that permeates the campus, and I attribute this atmosphere and environment to leadership and commitment. Mr. Shishido has instilled his trust and confidence in his faculty and staff, and they, in turn, have instilled this in the students.”

Thomas S. Katsuyoshi, President, McKinley Alumni Association

“Mr. Shishido has crossed the generations by being able to live in the new world of leadership by being more collaborative, while still maintaining his integrity and doing right by the students.”

Stacey Oshio, Vice Principal, McKinley High School

Milton S. Shishido has been the principal at McKinley High School for seven years. Shishido’s biggest challenge is getting every teacher to move toward a single school-wide initiative. However, he meets this challenge with an open, honest and professional discussion, addressing every party’s concerns. Shishido is in the process of developing a new Engineering Academy with help from the University of Hawaii’s College of Engineering. Shishido believes that the processes for planning and implementing this program have been a valuable staff development opportunity that cannot be duplicated.

If Shishido is recognized with the Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award, he will use the award to fund scholarships for McKinley High School students. Shishido believes that high school graduation should not be the end goal but rather a means to an end. Since many students at McKinley come from homes with family incomes lower than the state average, they need financial assistance to attend community college. Shishido believes that funding scholarships is not only worthwhile, but that it also gives the school a chance to do more than simply say that education is important.



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ROBERT K. STEVENS

“Classroom...athletic arena...community – Mr. Stevens is the consummate school leader in and outside of the classroom. Pure gold with the Midas touch.”

David A. Tom, Colonel, USAF

“The ‘Open Door’ policy was one of the first ‘policies’ Bob established as principal. Although it is designed primarily for students, anyone who might want to discuss an issue with him is able to contact him...The personal touch that he gives takes time but shows his students that he cares about them and indirectly results in a calm, safe campus.”

Amelia Hew Sang, Counseling Department Chairperson, Radford High School

Robert K. Stevens has been the principal at Radford High School for 11 years. Under his leadership, Stevens developed several programs including a Character Education Program and a Saturday Enrichment Program. He was also instrumental in establishing an Arts and Communications Academy and a Culinary Arts Academy. His most notable achievement was implementation of a Student Transition Center. Since 65 to 70 percent of the student body is composed of military dependents, Stevens believed it was necessary to provide a personalized process for its transient student body. The Transition Center provides a safe haven for new students and offers tutors as needed to ease the transition into Radford’s classes. Since its inception, there has been positive feedback, and disciplinary referrals for new students have minimized.

If Stevens is recognized with the Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award, he will use the funds to complete the conversion of the old automotive shop to a multipurpose building used for meetings, workshops, presentations and more. Stevens also plans to build a stainless steel kitchen at the back of the old automotive shop to provide appropriate facilities for the culinary arts program.



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AUGUST M. SUEHIRO

“August’s commitment to building a professional learning community at Olomana School began with his impetus to develop a community of leaders at the school. He restructured the school to empower teachers as Learning Community Chairs in implementing the mission of the school: saving students – one at a time.”

Ellen Schroeder, Teacher, Olomana School

“During my time working with Mr. Suehiro, I have seen Olomana School change from a culture of individuals with their own agendas, to a culture of professional communities that foster learning for both the staff and the students. I attribute this to Mr. Suehiro’s ability to work with people in a very ‘humble’ way. This, I feel, is truly a rare quality to find in an administrator.”

Tina Winquist, Vice Principal, Olomana School

August M. Suehiro has been the principal at Olomana School in Kailua for four years. Under his leadership, Suehiro encourages teachers to take advantage of an array of experiences that include staff development training, presentations, visitations and conferences, all of which accelerate school momentum. Suehiro has three goals for student achievement that are the foundation for Olomana’s improvement efforts: building relationships, providing students with a strong foundation in standards-based learning and building a facility that will allow physical activities important to a student’s overall well-being. Suehiro’s purpose, vision and mission are all based on one key ingredient: hope. He believes that hope is what drives school improvement and ultimately students’ improved performance.

If Suehiro is recognized with the Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award, he will utilize the funds in three ways. One third would go toward planning an open play court at the Olomana Youth Center (OYC) site. One third would go to the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility site’s Student Council program. The final third would go toward the Detention Home’s reading program, where teachers volunteer their time in the morning, after school or on weekends to provide reading time for students.



Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award Nominee 2006

GERALD K. SUYAMA

“Mr. Suyama cares deeply about Pearl City High School. It is amazing to me that he has been principal at the same school for 18 years and still carries on with the energy and enthusiasm of a new principal. His love for PCHS radiates outwardly and inspires others.”

Breene Harimoto, Board of Education Member

“Mr. Suyama is very dedicated to his school and his students. He knows that students can be successful in many different ways and he is always encouraging our staff to look for ways to recognize all of our students...He has my highest regards as a Principal, a mentor, a role model and a friend.”

Mark T. Tanji, Vice Principal, Pearl City High School

Gerald K. Suyama has been the principal at Pearl City High School for 18 years. Suyama was instrumental in implementing a program that tackles the drug problem on campus. Six teachers attended a four-day workshop and worked with a psychiatrist and mental health agencies to develop the school’s program, which was designed to help students abstain from chemical abuse. The successful program was awarded The National Drug Free Award by the U.S. Department of Education from 1990 to 1991. Suyama’s focus is on establishing a safe and caring environment with a strong academic and curriculum program. The fact that Pearl City High School has more than 400 students on geographical exceptions is testament to the school’s reputation, which in large part is credited to Suyama’s leadership throughout the years.

If Suyama is recognized with the Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award, he will use the funds to continue to provide tutoring for students with dyslexia. Currently, Pearl City High School is running a pilot program through the Dyslexia Center of Hawaii that provides free services to students. Once the pilot program ceases, funding will be necessary to keep the program running.



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Randy M. Yamanuha

“Randy Yamanuha is special. He has a passion for nurturing. He has encouraged and fostered a mentoring program for the faculty which brings together veterans and newcomers. He has a vision of what he wants.”

Earle S. Hotta, Counseling Department Chair, Maui High School

“His leadership style is warm and open and there is never a question that his priority is focused on learning. He has emphasized the role that teachers, staff, parents and community leaders play in the school. He has called on their suggestions and comments to create innovative projects with excellence standards in education.”

César Gaxiola, Co-Chair School Community Council, Maui High School

Randy M. Yamanuha has been the principal at Maui High School in Kahului for four years. Yamanuha believes that learning should permeate throughout the entire school community. His goal is to develop a community of lifelong learners. Yamanuha has also established a participatory culture, which empowers staff members to work collaboratively. Yamanuha was instrumental in developing a newcomer center for English for Second Language Learners (ESLL). The center’s goal is to provide an array of resources for immigrant students and their families to acculturate them to the western culture. At Maui High School, Yamanuha emphasizes the three Rs of education – rigor, relevance and relationships. These components are recognized as the cornerstone for improving student achievement.

If Yamanuha is recognized with the Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award, he will use the funds to provide additional resources to enhance student performance in mathematics and current ongoing projects. Yamanuha is considering a new computer-assisted math instructional program for the school as a supplement for struggling students. Also, the funds would be used to provide additional staff training in the areas of inclusion, differentiated instruction and problem-based learning.



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Gilmore Youn

“One area of concern at Kapa‘a High School for many years has been the high failure rate in the math department. Mr. Youn’s leadership brought the department together with district specialists to come up with consistently delivered curriculum.”

Diane Ayre, Vice Principal, Kapa‘a High School

“Another leadership quality that distinguishes Mr. Youn is his ability to see where the major learning needs are and to create the structures and functions that would adequately address those needs.”

Dominic Beralas, Math Department Chairperson

Gilmore Youn has been the principal at Kapa‘a High School for 10 years. Youn’s focus is to provide a supportive and nurturing environment where students are prepared for life and citizenship. He encourages student learning where respect is evident and students are responsible for their learning and behavior. Youn was instrumental in developing teacher learning communities, where teachers are provided time to discuss and share ideas, develop action plans and review data. Youn believes these sessions have contributed to the success of the school over the past few years.

If Youn is recognized with the Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award, he will use the funds to reward both students and staff members for their hard work and effort. Students who perform well in the areas of attendance, behavior and grades will be given awards at an incentive assembly. Staff members exemplifying high quality work will receive bonuses and other incentives. Youn believes that setting expectations and offering incentives will encourage and motivate people to work hard to meet those expectations.