

system. Some teach at the elementary level, some in middle schools, while others teach in high school classrooms. Some teach on Oahu, some are on the Big Island, and others on Kauai and Maui. Some teach language arts, math, or social studies, while others teach a variety of other disciplines. Some teach special needs students, a number are generalists, others are specialists, and a few are librarians. Nevertheless, all of them have one thing in common, their dedication to enabling the schoolchildren of Hawaii to achieve all that they can. I am proud to enter their names into the RECORD of this august body.

During the 2005 school year the following teachers received National Board Certification: Leslie Agena, Kailua High School; Amy Boehning, Waiialua High and Intermediate School; Genevieve "Noe" Bunnell, Pearl Ridge Elementary School; Lisa Chang, Niu Valley Middle School; Susan Erikson, Washington Middle School; Marta Finley, Kealakehe Elementary School; Cathy Lynne K.L. Fong, Liholiho Elementary School; Candace Foster, Aina Haina Elementary School; Kimberly Fradale, Mid-Pacific Institute; Raejean Gamiao, Mililani Uka Elementary School; Douglas Garriss, Kamiloiki Elementary School; Lisa Hockenberger, Kalihi-Kai Elementary School; Janet Itano, Aina Haina Elementary School; Inga Kelly, Moanalua High School; Cristy Kessler, Education Lab School; Jill Laboy, Kailua High School; Sallie Lee, Lanakila Elementary School; David Mecham, Waimea High School; Melinda O'Herron, Konawaena Middle School; Carolyn Okunaga, Mililani High School; Dianne Pang, Aliiolani Elementary School; Margaret Prevenas, Kalama Intermediate School; Helie Rock, Keaau High School; Julie Shirai, Pearl Ridge Elementary School; Amber Strong, Kailua High School; Marla Thompson, Waianae High School; Patricia Uehara, Kealakehe Elementary School; Mark Watanabe, Keaau High School; Jennifer Williams, Roosevelt High School; and Ms Zami-Perez, Waiialua Elementary School.

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 very rigorous and comprehensive process. It requires the preparation of a portfolio featuring actual videotaped classroom 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 curriculum and practices 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. 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 requiring a commitment of up to 400 hours. However, 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 candidates as they go through the certification process. Most often support is offered through a qualified facilitator, a teacher who has already earned the designation of National Board Certified Teacher. These support networks are also places to meet with and support other teachers undergoing the same process. This assistance goes a long way in making this very difficult process possible.

National Board Certification does not replace the teacher licensure requirements as maintained by the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, but instead 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. Research has shown time and again that students in classrooms with National Board Certified Teachers do better 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 scientifically based set of evaluations and to have shown improved results for 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, districts and states are required to make adequate yearly progress, where students are increasingly required to demonstrate achievement as measured by high stakes testing in order 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 knowledge and 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."•

RECOGNIZING COMMANDER ROBERT H. PACKARD

• Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize Commander Robert H. Packard, of Charlottesville, VA, who has served honorably in the U.S. Navy for 40 years.

Robert Packard followed his father's footsteps in joining the proud tradition that is the U.S. Navy when he was sworn in by his father in 1966. In 1974, Packard graduated with a bachelors of science degree from the McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia while serving in the Naval Reserve. After serving various tours, Packard became commanding officer of the Mobile Mine Assembly Group from 1988 to 1992 in Yorktown, VA, where his unit received the REDCOM SIX award for the Best Small Unit, the Most Improved Unit and the Best Small Unit with over 50 percent enlisted. He served in Desert Storm from 1992 to 1994 and then from 1994 to 1997 Packard served as commanding officer of a medical logistics unit in Newport News, VA. Packard concluded his service with the Navy at the Pentagon as a commander assigned to the OPNAV N86 staff.

Commander Packard's leadership and dedication to preserving the freedoms and liberties that make this country so great is truly admirable. I am grateful for Commander Packard's service and contributions to the United States and to the Commonwealth of Virginia.•

CONGRATULATING CHAMPIONS FOR HEALTHY KIDS WINNERS

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate three Kentucky organizations: Pendleton County Education Foundation in Falmouth; Healthy Schools Inc. in Louisville; and Paducah Park Services. These three organizations have recently been named Champions for Healthy Kids winners.

Champions for Healthy Kids is a long-term grants program designed to instill good nutrition and fitness habits among our youth. The program calls on community groups to champion the health of our young people by developing innovative fitness and nutrition programs that can have a lifelong impact.

I congratulate Pendleton County Education Foundation, Healthy Schools Inc., and Paducah Park Services for their achievements. Everyone involved in these organizations are an inspiration to the citizens of Kentucky. I look forward to all that these organizations accomplish in the future.•

HONORING IBM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me today in honoring the 50 years of public contribution by an innovative technology company started in Rochester, MN, in 1956. International Business Machines, more commonly known internationally as IBM, has made economic growth possible in a competitive and continually changing marketplace.

In 1956, when IBM President Thomas Watson, Jr., met with 40 Rochester business and civic leaders at the Kahler Hotel to establish a new IBM facility, they probably never envisioned that