Jean Rolles Shines as Woman Community Leader of the Year

It was an evening of shining stars this past Thursday when Pacific Business News recognized some of Hawaii’s top businesswomen at the Monarch Room of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. One of these stars was my sister, Jean Rolles, Vice President of Community Relations for Outrigger Enterprises, who was honored as Hawaii’s first-ever Woman Community Leader of the Year.

What a wonderful honor for Jean, who is truly the embodiment of community work in Hawaii! A tireless volunteer, Jean has worked hard for and given generously to a wide variety of community organizations and charitable causes her entire life!

She has been a leader in efforts to support building strong families and strong communities, in promoting education, and in fostering economic development. Jean has also been a tremendous supporter of the arts and culture, as well as of encouraging international understanding.

Jean has helped to build strong communities in Hawaii. She serves on the Executive Committee of the American Red Cross Hawaii Chapter Board of Directors; on the Board of Trustees of the University of Hawaii’s Family Business Center; and on the Board of the YWCA of Oahu; to name just a few. Jean also is a Hawaii State Supreme Court appointee to the Office of the Disciplinary Council, where she has served for the past six years.

Jean has also been a leader in supporting education. As a Regent for Chaminade University, she has worked to help make a college education possible for many of Hawaii’s young people. Through her work with University of Hawaii’s official athletic fundraising organization, ‘Ahahui Koa ınuenue, Jean helps raise funds for scholarships for athletes—both men and women. She has also helped support economic development, including through her work with the Hawaii International Hotel Institute of the School of Travel Industry Management at the University of Hawaii, where she serves as President of the Board.

Hawaii’s thriving arts and culture scene owes much to Jean as well. Her deep aloha for our community extends to many of Hawaii’s leading arts and culture organizations, including Hawaii Opera Theatre where she serves as Vice President, and the Honolulu Academy of Arts, where she serves as a Trustee, among many others. Jean also serves on the U.S. President’s Advisory Committee on the Arts of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

Jean’s support for Hawaii’s precious natural environment is well known, especially through her efforts with the Nature Conservancy of Hawaii, where she serves as Secretary.

Finally, Jean has played a leadership role in promoting global understanding. Her efforts include the East-West Center, where she serves on the Board of Governors, as well as on the Board of the East-West Center Foundation. Additionally, Jean is Vice President of the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council and is a member of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii and the World Service Council of the YWCA of the United States.

In sum, Jean has contributed tirelessly and enormously to the well-being of our state and our people. Over the years, she has touched the lives of countless people with her energy, enthusiasm, and heartfelt passion for helping others. She is a role model and the kind of civic-minded person of whom our state and our nation can never have enough.

Congratulations, Jean! You are an inspiration to us all.