Recognizing Our Good Citizens

By Barry Wallace

The Citizenship Awards were created in 2005 by The Honolulu Advertiser’s Newspaper in Education program and the Hawaii Hotel & Lodging Association to help the Hawaii State Department of Education clarify its vision of a public school graduate.

The awards focus on students’ accomplishments and vision for their own future. One graduating senior from each high school across the state (42 public high schools and two charter schools) is selected to receive a scholarship towards their continuing education. The 3rd Annual Citizenship Awards luncheon, held on May 31 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, honored these future professionals and gave them an opportunity to meet with community leaders.

As many of you know, Outrigger Enterprises Group sponsors and participates in many events that involve our Adopted School, Pearl City High School. As this year’s Chair of the Hawaii Hotel & Lodging Association and on behalf of Outrigger Enterprises Group, I am honored to congratulate Stayson Isobe, a recent graduate of our Adopted School, as one of this year’s honorees.

Here’s a look at one of our future leaders: Stayson Isobe

Achievements:
Honorable Mention in the All-OIA White Division All-Star Team. Involved in student government as Class Vice President and Leeward District Student Council representative. Sports Editor of the school newspaper.

Community Service:
Leo Club member. Volunteers at a physical therapy clinic.

Character:
Gay K. Ching, Newswriting teacher, wrote, “If ‘character is a destiny,’ as the saying goes, Stayson is in for a life of honor and accomplishment. Stayson is filled with integrity. He understands what commitment to the task and to others means. He has been a blessing to my newspaper this year, and I am regretful that I don’t have another Stayson to take his place next year.”

Mentoring:
“I’ve learned a lot of life lessons from Mr. Mel Bicoy, my weight training teacher and football coach. I’ve learned to always believe in myself and my abilities. I’ve also learned to always live in the present, no matter what happened in my past. Most of all, I learned what it really means to be a ‘Charger.’ Mr Bicoy was there for me in times of need or in times just to talk story, and for that, I will remember him forever.”

Personal Statement:
“I was a part of the breakout season for our football team. For years our football team was the laughing stock of our school. But this year, we turned things around as a team when we only narrowly missed the playoffs. To be a part of this team was a much bigger accomplishment than any other individual achievement I ever received.”

In talking with Stayson at the Citizenship Awards luncheon, I learned he plans to attend Northern Arizona University in the fall and major in either Physical Therapy or Secondary Education. If he chooses Secondary Education, he would like to return to his alma mater as a teacher. Stayson said, “My whole life has always been about giving back to where I came from, and I would enjoy the opportunity to give back to my school. Either path I choose to pursue, I hope to make you proud. After all, you and the entire Outrigger family helped me reach my goal of achieving a college education.” Wow! That really shows why Stayson was one of this year’s recipients!

Congratulations, Stayson. I know that whatever career path you choose, you will be a leader and a success. Go out there and make us proud! And congratulations to Outrigger Enterprises Group for being in the forefront in the areas of community and education. I am proud to represent a company that helps nurture the leaders of tomorrow.