

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

Rochester would become home to the world's fastest computer named "Blue Gene" that would be able to perform 18.2 trillion operations per second. They probably could not have dreamed that 50 years later IBM would become Minnesota's largest information firm, with 5,600 employees in the Rochester and Twin Cities areas. And they probably could not have imagined that the plant they were planning would account for 15 percent of Minnesota's high-tech manufactured exports, in a State that continues to lead the field in technology.

IBM has spent 50 years growing into a world wide corporation which contributes to our economy at an astounding level. In 2005, IBM earned more U.S. patents than any other company for the 13th consecutive year, with 2,941 in 2005. IBM ensures that our Nation stays competitive in the global economy. Rochester has helped lead that wave of innovation.

IBM and its employees and retirees have also been generous supporters of education and nonprofit organizations. Through cash and technology grants of \$3.4 million and more than 185,000 hours of volunteerism in 2005 alone, they have been a great benefit to Minnesota's communities and schools.

With the people of Minnesota, I ask this Chamber to join in celebrating IBM's 50th year of operation in Rochester, MN.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO SISTER CITIES

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the cities of Saginaw, MI, and Tokushima, Japan, on the 45th anniversary of their sister city partnership. This is a significant milestone, and I am delighted to recognize these two cities for their many years of dialog and exchange.

In 1961, Saginaw and Tokushima established a relationship that sought to promote cultural awareness between the cities. Since that time, there has been significant interaction between the two cities, including student groups and other delegations traveling between the cities for cultural, educational and other purposes, as well as the exchange of gifts.

In 1971, the Tokushima-Saginaw Friendship Garden was built in Saginaw, and the land adjacent to the garden was subsequently deeded to the city of Tokushima. In 1985, a tea house was also built in Saginaw. Contractors and laborers from both cities were instrumental in its construction of the tea house and the labor costs were equally borne by both Saginaw and Tokushima. Upon its completion, the tea house became one of only 11 in the United States, and the only authentic tea house in the Midwest.

Promoting dialog and interaction between cities in the United States and other countries is a great way for communities to learn, understand and re-

late to other cultures. Through their Sister City Partnership, residents and officials of the cities of Saginaw and Tokushima now have a deeper and more personal appreciation for the traditions of both the United States and Japan. I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Saginaw and Tokushima on the 45 years of cultural exchange, and I wish them the best as this relationship continues to develop further.●

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 4:14 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 and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4411. An act to prevent the use of certain payment instruments, credit cards, and fund transfers for unlawful Internet gambling, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 86. Joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, without amendment:

S.J. Res. 40. A resolution authorizing the printing and binding of a supplement to, and revised edition of, Senate Procedure.

The message further announced that the bill from the Senate (S. 655) to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the National Foundation for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention passed with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3637. A bill to require the submittal to Congress of any Presidential Daily Briefing relating to Iraq during the period beginning on January 20, 1997, and ending on March 19, 2003.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 4411. An act to prevent the use of certain payment instruments, credit cards, and fund transfers for unlawful Internet gambling, and for other purposes.

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-7458. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Administration's intent to award a contract to McNeil Security, Inc. for screening services at Greater Rochester International Airport in Rochester, New York; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7459. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Office of Legislative Affairs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's category rating system annual report; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7460. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, (5) reports relative to vacancy announcements within the Department, received on July 6, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7461. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of Unilateral Chemical/Biological (CB) Controls on Certain Biological Agents and Toxins; Clarification of Controls on Medical Products Containing Certain Toxins on the Australia Group (AG) Common Control Lists; Additions to the List of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)" (RIN0694-AD62) received on July 6, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7462. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Authorization to Appoint Any Commerce Department Employee to be Appeals Coordinator in Certain Administrative Appeals" (RIN0694-AD78) received on July 6, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7463. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries in the Western Pacific; Final Rule; Correcting Amendment" (RIN0648-AU21) received on July 6, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7464. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Framework Adjustment 18 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan" (RIN0648-AT25) received on July 6, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.