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NEWS RELEASE

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Kaonohi Awards Honor Contributions to Hawaiian Health

Senator Akaka among those to be recognized

HONOLULU – Papa Ola Lōkahi will honor 14 community leaders for their commitment to Hawaiian health on Saturday, July 23, at Washington Place.

The Kaonohi Awards are named for Alexander Friedenburg Kaonohi, one of the first Hawaiian doctors to own his own clinic, and to combine Western and traditional Hawaiian practices. Dr. Kaonohi also encouraged other Hawaiians to enter the health field by providing scholarships to individual protégés. Papa Ola Lōkahi last presented the Kaonohi Awards in 2000.

“The award is named for Dr. Kaonohi because he pioneered the integration of traditional Hawaiian healing with allopathic medicine,” said Hardy Spoehr, executive director of Papa Ola Lōkahi. “It is important to honor those who have made significant contributions to improving the health and wellbeing of Native Hawaiians. These recognitions are overdue.”

Among those being honored are Senator Daniel Akaka; Patricia Zell of the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs; Patrick DeLeon of Senator Inouye's staff; Betty Jenkins, a retired educator; and Benjamin B.C. Young, director of the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence at the University of Hawai'i medical school.

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E lawe i ke a'o a malama, a e 'oi mau ka na'auao.

Take your teachings, apply them and increase your knowledge.

Mary Kawena Puku'i #328

Other honorees are Anita Arce, Mary Fragas, Father Joseph Hendriks, Levon Ohai, Henry Nalaielua, Momilani Poepoe (posthumously), Bernard Punikaia, Marie Leimomi Ruane and Maka'ala Yates.

Papa Ola Lōkahi and the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems are recognized by United States Congress through the Native Hawaiian Health Care Act to improve the health and wellness of Native Hawaiians.

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