On Friday, June 2, 2017, the COEAA held its Annual General Membership Meeting at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. At this event, the COEAA annually honors an alumnus/alumna who is an exceptional and outstanding leader of our educational community for his/her invaluable contributions to education.

Ernest Duterte Libarios, Sr., a retired counselor at Leeward Community College, was honored as the 2017 Distinguished Alumnus in the presence of many of his family and friends. Also, in attendance at this annual event were current and former Board members, alumni, and other guests.

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Co-Editors
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Vail Matsumoto
Mona Tokuyo
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Addressing Hawaii’s Teacher Shortages

States and districts across the nation are experiencing a shortage of qualified teachers. Hawaii’s public schools are no different and have been experiencing a shortage of qualified teachers every year.

To this end, UH initiated a “Be a Hero” campaign to attract people to the profession and to see teaching in a more positive light. The initiative includes a website, videos, and posters designed to attract more students and working professionals into teaching. Currently, posters are being disseminated to the high schools and UH campuses, and the website can be accessed at https://coe.hawaii.edu. Ernest “Niki” Libarios, Jr., Director of OSAS, took the lead in this campaign but unfortunately did not see its launch due to his untimely passing.

Also, to address the issue of teacher shortages, the COE will initiate a “Grow Our Own” pilot program that will allow substitute teachers and educational aides to earn full teaching credentials at the University of Hawaii at Manoa at no cost while keeping their jobs. The program focuses on secondary teachers in English, mathematics, science, and Hawaiian and world languages which are shortage areas. The program is being funded by the Hawaii Legislature in partnership with the Hawaii DOE and will commence in January 2018.

The foregoing program was a result of collaboration among the Hawaii Legislature, the Hawaii DOE, and UH with Senator Michelle Kidani as the facilitator.

Nominations for 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award

The COEAA Distinguished Alumni Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award. Nomination packets may be downloaded from the following website: https://coe.hawaii.edu/giving-alumni/coe-alumni-association/coeaa-alumni-awardees. The deadline for submittal of the nomination forms is March 8, 2018. If you need assistance with the nomination packet or have any questions or concerns, please contact either Charlotte Unni (yukiyama968@yahoo.com) or Roberta Nakamoto (rnaka88@yahoo.com), co-chairs of the committee.
**Aloha Niki**
The COEAA ohana bids our warmest aloha and mahalo to Ernest “Niki” Duterte Libarios, Jr., Director of the Office of Student Academic Services (OSAS) and COE alumni and extends our deepest condolences to his family. We thank you, Niki, for your invaluable contributions to education and bid you our fondest aloha. We will miss you.

“Intelligence plus Character — that is the goal of true education.”
Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Mahalo to Board Members and CESA/COEDSA Representatives**
The COEAA would like to extend our sincere gratitude and thank you to the following outstanding educators: Aida Martin, Thelma Nip, and Judith Saranchock for their leadership, expertise, services, and contributions to the Board. These officers and Board members worked arduously and unselfishly for six consecutive years to meet the goals of the organization in its efforts to support the COE. Also, the COEAA would like to thank Cory Mau and Eduard Merc, CESA and COEDSA representatives, for keeping the Board apprised of their activities at its monthly meetings and contributing to our discussions and conversations relating to the COE. Many mahalos to all of you!

**Our Dedicated and Committed COEAA Officers**
In this issue of the newsletter, it is an honor to highlight Mona Tokuyo, Secretary, and Gayle Lum, Treasurer, of the COEAA. Both Mona and Gayle have been members of the COEAA Board of Directors for approximately four and a half years and have performed and fulfilled their duties as officers/directors in an exemplary manner.

Mona ensures that all records of meetings are recorded accurately and presented to the Board at its monthly meetings and Gayle ensures that all financial matters are completed, reported, and timely filed. Both of these officers never complain and perform their work with a positive attitude and minimum supervision which explains their leadership capabilities and knowledge base of their positions and the organization.

The COEAA is indeed fortunate to have these highly qualified educators on the Board. Thank you, Mona and Gayle, for your dedication and commitment to the organization and for your leadership roles on the Board. The COEAA appreciates all of your hard work and the time you unselfishly expend to fulfill your responsibilities!

**Volunteering at the Pacific Rim International Conference**

The 33rd Annual Pacific Rim International Conference was held on October 9 – 11, 2017, in Honolulu with approximately 600 participants from all over the world and the Hawaiian islands. Thank you to Kathleen Niimura, Jan Ikeda, Gwen Maeda, and Helen Hasegawa for volunteering and representing the COEAA at this event.

**Welcome to COEAA’s New Board Members**

Jean Kiyabu - Jean retired from the Hawaii DOE in 2008 after 10 years of service as an Educational Specialist II in the State Special Education Section of Student Support. She also was a school level administrator at Moanalua High School and Salt Lake Elementary School. Prior to assuming her administrator position, Jean was an itinerant Speech/Language/Hearing Specialist for the Honolulua District of which two years were spent in Texas.

Gwen Maeda - Gwen is a recent retiree from the Hawaii DOE. She taught for 32 years at McKinley High School where she was the chair of the Business Department and the Director for the Business Learning Center’s Academy of Finance and Academy of Hospitality and Tourism.

Steve Shiraki - Steve is a 37-year veteran with the Hawaii DOE. He started his career as a teacher and then served as a vice principal, district educational specialist, and state specialist and administrator for Student Support Services. Currently, he is with the Kaimuki-McKinley-Roosevelt Complex Area as their Complex Academic Officer, working in the area of comprehensive school improvement. Steve also teaches courses in the College of Education’s Educational Administration, Educational Foundations, and the Doctorate in Professional Educational Practice programs.

Twylla-Dawn Steer - Twylla retired from the Hawaii DOE after 44 years of service as a science teacher and curriculum coordinator. She is currently on the HSTA - Retired Budget and Finance Committee as Vice-Chair.

The COEAA Board of Directors look forward to collaborating and working with these new Directors to meet the goals of the organization and to provide support to the COE.

**Wanted . . . Your Kokua**
We are encouraging COEAA members to nominate candidates who are willing to serve on the COEAA Board. Please submit your nominations by March 31, 2018, for the Spring 2018 Board of Directors election to Vail Matsumoto, Chair of the Nomination Committee. You may contact her at vail@hawaii.edu if you have any questions.