



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

TED SAKAI  
DIRECTOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Nov. 14, 2013

### **PAROLE GRADUATION MARKS PERSONAL SUCCESSES ON THE PATH TO REINTEGRATION**

#### ***Public Safety Director Sakai among five honored for support of parolees***

HONOLULU – The Annual Parole Completion Celebration was held Thursday night at Hawaii State Supreme Court Aliiolani Hale to honor individuals who completed parole as well as those who helped them. The event was put on by the Hawaii Friends of Justice and Civic Education Organization, a non-governmental organization dedicated to improving the justice system.

Parole completion ceremonies have been held four times in the past three years, involving more than 200 people including judges, parole board members, lawyers, prison staff, counselors, formerly incarcerated people and the parolees' loved ones.

State Public Safety Director Ted Sakai was among those honored by the Hawaii Friends of Justice and Civic Education organization for their support of parolees successfully working their way through the parole and reintegration process. Director Sakai was given the Restorative Prison Award, which was renamed the Ted Sakai Restorative Prison Award in his honor. Director Sakai introduced restorative justice at Waiawa Prison in 2003, when he was the warden.

“When people think of the criminal justice system, the first thing that comes to mind is conviction and incarceration of law violators,” said Director Sakai. “Restoration is a crucial part of the criminal justice process. It focuses on positive behavior and is proven to promote healing and help parolees stay out of prison and become productive citizens again.”

Restorative justice programs focus on meeting the needs of individuals and communities who have been affected by wrongdoing. They involve group discussion

- MORE -

sessions that give victims a voice, while offering offenders the opportunity to develop a transition plan and determine how they can best reconcile in their particular situation. Offenders can then work to repair the harm their imprisonment and/or law violations have caused their families and the community.

Others recognized at the event for their work with parolees included:

- Judicial Innovation Award – Judge Steven Alm, First Circuit Court
- The Russ Takaki Restorative Parole Office Award – Reginald Une, Parole Office and Supervisor, Hilo
- Prison Aftercare Support Award – Frank Garcia, Business Owner, Aiea
- Restorative Justice Community Award – Matthew Taufetee, Director Life After Prison

###

**Media Contact:**

Lorenn Walker, J.D., M.P.H.

Hawaii Friends of Justice and Civic Education Organization

Office: 637-2385

Lorenn@hawaii.edu

Toni Schwartz

Public Information Officer

Department of Public Safety

Office: 587-1358

Cell: 683-5507

Toni.E.Schwartz@hawaii.gov

<http://hawaii.gov/psd/>