



ISLAND INSURANCE

F O U N D A T I O N

## News Release

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## Hilo Principal named as finalist in \$25,000 School Leadership Award

**Dennis O'Brien, principal of Ernest Bowen deSilva Elementary School in Hilo** was named a finalist in the **2011 Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Awards**.

One Hawaii public school principal will receive \$25,000 (\$15,000 towards a school project of his or her choice and a \$10,000 personal cash award). The recipient of this year's award will be announced at the Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation dinner on April 29, 2011 in Honolulu.

The award, which is named after Island Insurance founder Masayuki Tokioka, is underwritten by the Island Insurance Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Island Insurance Companies. 11 public school principals from across the state are finalists for this year's award which recognizes outstanding school principals across the state and their efforts to provide high-quality learning opportunities for their students.

A principal at E.B. deSilva for the past six years, O'Brien strives to foster an environment where staff members, families and the larger Hilo community work together as a team in an effort to help students reach their highest potential and enrich their educational experience.

"Dennis has established a focus on learning by empowering his teachers and parents to take an active role in the education of our students," said Darryl Yagi, 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at E.B. deSilva Elementary School.

(more)

“Each of our support staff is a parent of a child at our school, had children that attended our school or has been at the school for many years. This creates an emotional attachment to the school and a sense of pride and commitment to the success of each and every child.”

The Island Insurance Foundation was established by Island Insurance Company, Ltd., Hawaii’s largest locally owned and managed insurance carrier, offering a full range of property and casualty protection. Founded in downtown Honolulu in 1939, Island Insurance has been serving Hawaii’s families and businesses for over 70 years and is the only Hawaii-Based company to be recognized as one of the Top 50 property & casualty insurance companies in the nation by the Ward Group for three consecutive years. Island Insurance has earned financial strength ratings of “A” (Excellent) from A.M. Best Company and an “A” (Strong) rating from Fitch Ratings. For more information, visit its website at: [www.islandinsurance.com](http://www.islandinsurance.com).

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