



Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Association Citizen-Scholar Awards Luncheon

By Andy Beth Miller

Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Association hosted its Citizen-Scholar Awards Luncheon on April 27, 2017. For the fifth year in a row, Chelsea Group has both participated and contributed to this scholarship program. The luncheon was held at The MODERN Honolulu and was made possible by a collaboration between Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Association, the Hawaii State Department of Education, and the Honolulu Star-Advertiser. For the past 13 years, the luncheon has honored one outstanding senior student from every public high school throughout Hawaii. At the crux of the criteria for honorees is the exemplification of citizenship in school and within the community.

Each of the awarded students is gifted with a \$1,000 continuing education scholarship, made possible by a sponsoring company, as well as being featured in a full page spread in the Star-Advertiser, published on the day of the Awards luncheon.

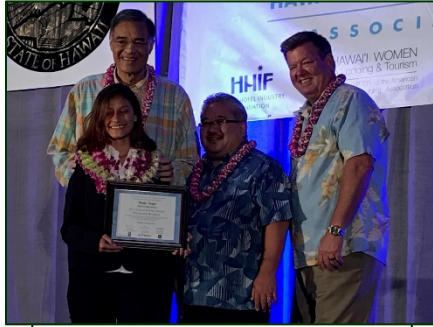
This year, it was local Building Science firm Chelsea Group's privilege to sponsor award recipient Sonja Angst from Molokai High School. An Education Award member of the AmeriCorps, Angst helped to plan an event for Molokai veterans—September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance—and has volunteered at numerous Career Fairs and Literacy Fairs.



Scholarship recipient Sonja Angst poses with Building Scientists Atma Bhawuk and Lisa Reddinger

Attending on behalf of Chelsea Group to personally meet and recognize this special young woman were Building Scientists Lisa Reddinger and Atma Bhawuk. "I thought the event was fantastic," said Reddinger. "Our sponsored student is from Molokai, and is a super student, who is greatly involved in her community through various community service projects, which is great to see and encourage."

While Reddinger and Bhawuk joined Angst and her school's guidance counselor (each student brings one mentor of their choosing to the event) at a shared table to enjoy a catered lunch, the group enjoyed speeches by several speakers, including Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Association President & CEO, Mufi Hannemann, and even a few of the honored students. Each student recipient was then announced and presented with an award by their corporate sponsor, along with a brief synopsis of their achievements and credentials for earning the prestigious honor.



Sonja Angst is presented with the scholarship award

Reddinger was particularly impressed with Angst's intrepid spirit. "She'll be moving to San Francisco and going to school there when she graduates, and she wants to be an entrepreneur," she shared. "It was really inspiring to see all the students there—there were 40+—and just to be able to recognize all of the hard work they've put in to get to this place was a true privilege."

Not only was it a privilege for Chelsea Group to sponsor Angst, but the firm also took great joy in celebrating her character. "Chelsea Group is excited to celebrate Sonja especially," said Reddinger. "We've been sponsoring this scholarship for several years now, and it supports all of the fundamental values that we as a firm hold near and dear to our own ideals and corporate vision—that of being true stewards in exercising the responsibilities that come along with global citizenship."

For more information on the scholarship program, and how to get involved visit:
<http://www.hawaiilodging.org/citizen-scholar-awards.html>

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