

GOVERNOR LINGLE PRESENTS INNOVATION AWARDS

For Immediate Release: March 13, 2009

HONOLULU – Governor Linda Lingle today recognized recipients of the Governor’s Innovation Awards for their commitment to finding creative ways to make life better for the people of Hawai‘i and build a stronger future for our state.

“Our current Innovation Award honorees understand the importance of trying new approaches to address significant challenges facing Hawai‘i,” said Governor Lingle. “They are finding creative ways to develop solutions that will help increase Hawai‘i’s energy independence and enhance the safety of our food supply.”

The Governor’s Innovation Award recipients for January 2009 are:

Innovation by an Individual: Henry Jiao

Henry Jiao, a bioengineer and biotechnologist, is working to promote environment-friendly transportation alternatives and healthy lifestyles in Hawai‘i. His company, Henry Industry International, sells “green” products including electric vehicles. Among his most innovative products are electric motor bicycles and mopeds, which require no gasoline or oil and produce no emissions and minimal noise. On average, charging an E-Bike takes approximately three to six hours every two to three days, at a cost of less than \$5 per month. Jiao distributes the E-Bikes through his Honolulu-based company **Aloha E-Bike** (alohaebike.com) as well as through a dealer on the Big Island, Kona Moped Center.

Other recipients in this month include:

Island Pacific Energy as an Organization and

Department of Agriculture -- Quality Assurance Division and Hawai‘i Farm Bureau

Governor Lingle initiated the monthly Innovation Awards in May 2008 to acknowledge and encourage innovation across all sectors statewide. The awards recognize deserving individuals, companies, nonprofits, organizations and government agencies that are developing innovative products, services and processes. The award is part of the Lingle-Aiona Administration’s Hawai‘i Innovation Initiative, a comprehensive plan to transform Hawai‘i’s economy from one dependent on land development to one that builds on human ingenuity and the ability of Hawai‘i’s people to innovate.

The Governor’s Innovation Awards nominees are evaluated monthly by a 15-member selection panel comprised of industry, education and government representatives statewide. Nominations are submitted online and are judged on creativity; effectiveness in achieving a goal or purpose; transferability and adoptability by others; and significance in addressing an important local or global issue, problem or opportunity. The selection committee provides final recommendations to Governor Lingle for her selection

see details at: <http://hawaii.gov/gov/news/releases/2009-news-releases/governor-lingle-presents-innovation-awards-1>