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## King Intermediate Teacher to Represent Hawaii Science Teachers Association as Ambassador at National Conference

**Honolulu, Hawaii (March 4, 2016)** — Tina Chan, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher at King Intermediate, is headed for Nashville, TN in March to attend the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) national conference on science education. She was the Hawaii Science Teachers Association (HaSTA) Ambassador Program recipient at the annual HaSTA conference last September at Punahou School. Since its inception in 2012, the HaSTA Ambassador Program has been sponsored by Hawaiian Electric Company which provides a stipend to a HaSTA member so s/he may have a world class professional development experience.

"In 20 years of teaching I've never attended the NSTA conference. I'm looking forward to the main speakers, the breakout sessions, the vendors, and meeting other science teachers," stated Chan. As a veteran teacher, Chan plans to share her teaching experience by presenting a session at the conference, the first HaSTA Ambassadors to take on the challenge.

This year's conference theme is Science: Empowering Performance and broken into four strands: Scientific Literacy, Involving Community Stakeholders, Integrating Instruction, and Three-Dimensional Learning that will be featured in over 400 exhibits, 1,200 presentations and workshops as well as field trips and social events. Chan will surely return from her trip invigorated and inspired to share the curriculum ideas with the HaSTA membership. And Alia Thompson, HaSTA President and Tina Chan, HaSTA Ambassador, agree that "attending the NSTA conference will be a very fulfilling experience" as Chan will get to engage with science teachers who love science and teaching as much as she does. Thompson adds, "Our whole organization benefits from this partnership when the Ambassador returns to Hawai'i and shares curriculum ideas and materials with local science educators by conducting a session at the annual HaSTA fall conference, passing on the knowledge and excitement."

Bill Nye, will be the keynote speaker at this year's NSTA conference (March 31-April 3, 2016), with a talk entitled "If the Dinosaurs Had a Space Program" for PreK through college educators. The conference will also feature other renowned science, education, policy, and industry experts.

"I was fortunate to meet Tina Chan last year, and she was clearly passionate and enthusiastic about the opportunity to meet and collaborate with some of the nation's leading science teachers," said Darcy Endo-Omoto, vice president of government & community affairs at Hawaiian Electric. "We're very happy for Tina, and honored to support the future of science education in Hawai'i as well as the next generation of technology leaders who will benefit from Tina's experiences and teachings."

If you are interested in learning more about HaSTA and the Hawaiian Electric Company-sponsored HaSTA Ambassador Program, visit the HaSTA website at [www.hasta.wildapricot.org](http://www.hasta.wildapricot.org).

*The Hawaii Science Teachers Association's mission is to stimulate and maintain interest in science; to stimulate, improve and coordinate science teaching at all levels of instruction in the schools of Hawaii and to engage in any and all activities of furtherance thereof; to promote the improvement of educational systems and processes in the schools in any manner to assist such stimulation and coordination of science teaching; to apprise the general public of possible means of improving science teaching within the schools; to do any and all acts and things which may increase, through education, the public knowledge of science since 1963.*