

**NEWS RELEASE** Aug. 26, 2015 Contact:

Julie Funasaki Yuen, (808) 689-2604 julieky@hawaii.edu Public Information Officer

## The Underwriters Association of Hawai'i donates to UH West O'ahu Risk Management and Insurance program for third consecutive year

**KAPOLEI** --- The Underwriters Association of Hawai'i (UAH) donated \$11,140 to the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu Risk Management and Insurance certificate program at the organization's annual charitable golf tournament on July 24 at the Hoakalei Country Club in Ewa Beach. Platinum sponsor participating insurance companies and agencies including

- Atlas Insurance Agency
- DTRIC Insurance Group
- First Insurance Company of Hawai'i, Ltd.
- GeoVera Holdings Inc.
- Hawaii Employers' Mutual Insurance Company, Inc. (HEMIC)
- Hawaiian Insurance & Guaranty Co.
- Hawai'i Independent Insurance Agents Association
- Island Insurance Co.
- Risk Placement Services
- TriCoast & Palomar Specialty Insurance Company
- Zephyr Insurance Co.

and other gold and silver level sponsors donated \$10,000 from the tournament as well as an additional \$1,140 from National Interstate through a prize giveaway. The donation will be used for student scholarships and program development. The Risk Management and Insurance certificate program at UH West O'ahu provides training for risk management, personal and commercial insurance professionals, and prepares students for licensure examination.

"Once again, the Underwriters Association of Hawai'i has generously donated to UH West O'ahu, allowing the University to continue to offer scholarships for Risk Management and Insurance students," said UH West O'ahu Chancellor, Rockne Freitas. "Our program is the only one of its kind in the state. Together with Hawai'i's insurance industry, we are working to provide tomorrow's insurance professionals with the skills they need to be successful in high-demand careers."

"The Underwriters Association of Hawai'i is committed to the Risk Management Insurance and Certificate program at UH West O'ahu to help develop and educate future insurance professionals," said UAH President Lauren Aoki. "The insurance industry offers a wide variety of career options with great benefits. We highly encourage the next generation of students to learn more about this program and pursue rewarding careers in insurance."

UH West O'ahu is the only university in the state to offer a Certificate in Risk Management and Insurance. The certificate program was created in partnership with Hawai'i's risk management and insurance industry to meet the increasing demand for qualified insurance professionals, and develop the skilled professionals needed in a field that offers high starting salaries, job stability, impressive opportunities for future career growth, and a balanced lifestyle.

The Risk Management and Insurance certificate program at UH West O'ahu is made possible by generous donations from Hawai'i's insurance industry including the Atlas Insurance Foundation, Dongbu Insurance, Farmers Insurance Hawaii, Island Insurance Co., Fairmont Specialty, DTRIC Insurance Group, HEMIC, First Insurance Company of Hawai'i, Ltd., RPS/Triad, Zephyr Insurance Co., RIMS Organization and the Hawai'i Independent Insurance Agents Association.

The Risk Management and Insurance certificate is one of many offered by UH West O'ahu in addition to the University's 33 bachelor's degree programs. Other certificate programs include Health Care Administration, Environmental Studies, Applied Forensic Anthropology, Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, Substance Abuse and Addictions Studies, and Democratic Principles and Social Justice. For more information, call (808) 689-2900 or email uhwo.admissions@hawaii.edu

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Established in 1976, **the University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu** offers quality education, small classes and personalized attention with academic programs that emphasize the exploration of interdisciplinary and cross-cultural studies. UH West O'ahu serves approximately 2,700 students at its brand new, state-of-the-art campus that opened in the City of Kapolei in 2012. For more information, visit <u>www.uhwo.hawaii.edu</u>, call (808) 689-2800 or toll-free (866) 299-8656. Find us on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>.

**The Underwriters Association of Hawai'i** is a non-profit organization established in 1968 whose mission is to perpetuate education, fellowship and interaction amongst its members of insurance professionals. Every year, the UAH sponsors a charitable golf tournament and proceeds are donated to a charity of choice.

The **Hawaii Independent Insurance Agents Association** is a non-profit trade association representing a network of independent insurance professionals across the State of Hawai'i. The HIIA is the Hawai'i affiliate for the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (IIABA) founded in 1896. The IIABA is a national alliance of 300,000 business owners and their employees who offer all types of insurance and financial services products.

**PHOTO (from left):** Tricia Matsukawa (Matsukawa Insurance Agency), Reid Higashi (Business Insurance Services), Judy Oliveira (UH West Oʻahu), Lauren Aoki (First Insurance Company of Hawaiʻi and Underwriters Association of Hawaiʻi), Eun Ahn (UH West Oʻahu), and Ryan Kawamoto (Island Insurance Co.).