



SHYLI Youth Leadership Summit Dedication to Guy Toyama

Hawaii's isolation and vulnerability is our greatest asset. It forces our island people to shift into a new era of sustainable and self-reliant living. Upon meeting SHYLI members, I'm encouraged to see our youth leaders grab the ball and run to the goal with a sense of urgency.

Guy Toyama

Guy Toyama was one of the great leaders of sustainability on the Island of Hawaii and throughout the state of Hawaii. His generosity of spirit and his delightful enthusiasm for our young people was inspiring. As a founding member of the Sustainable Hawai'i Youth Leadership Initiative's Advisory Council, Guy opened many doors, introducing us to his friends and colleagues who could lend a hand, share their resources and support Hawaiian youth leaders. Guy first attended SHYLI's launch event at the West Hawaii Civic Center where he made an impassioned plea for everyone to get involved in supporting SHYLI. He hosted SHYLI's first Sustainable Hawaii Tour and shared Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii (NELHA), Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC).

He encouraged SHYLI's youth to dream big, go to college, As a member of the Kohala-Kaila-Kona Chamber of Commerce's SUSTAINability Committee, Guy was especially excited about SHYLI's first Annual Job Shadow Day where we are matching young people with mentors in their potential careers. Guy also invited SHYLI to host meetings and share his office space at NELHA. SHYLI's first youth delegate was inspired by Guy's presentation on NELHA. As a student of the West Hawaii Explorations Academy (WHEA), she had spent many hours listening to Guy as he brought NELHA's mission to life -- "to develop and diversify the Hawaii economy by providing resources and facilities for energy and ocean-related research, education and commercial activities in an environmentally sound and culturally sensitive manner."

Guy was an integral part of SHYLI's upcoming Youth Leadership Forum. He believed that it was imperative to have Hawaii's youth share their vision of sustainability with Hawaii's decision makers from business, government, education and the community.

The Sustainable Hawai'i Youth Leadership Initiative and the Stone Soup Leadership Institute is honored to dedicate this Youth Leadership Forum to Guy Toyama for all the inspiration he gave us during the years he supported our young people. We are committed to continue working with the community almost with the same he did. We will strive to support Hawaiian youth leaders to learn how to turn our challenges into our greatest assets as he did. Thank you Guy.

The Sustainable Hawaii Youth Leadership Initiative is a project of the Stone Soup Leadership Institute.

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