



Special Message from Governor Neil Abercrombie

Presented in Recognition of the
**9th Annual Youth Leadership Summit for
Sustainable Development**

June 22-28, 2013

On behalf of the people of Hawai'i, I would like to extend my personal greeting to everyone gathered for the **9th Annual Youth Leadership Summit for Sustainable Development** and a warm *aloha* to the following participants from Lana'i and Hawai'i Islands representing the **Sustainable Hawai'i Youth Leadership Initiative**:

- Lucena Gaceta
- Daniel Forsythe
- Caroline Stuck
- KaMele Sanchez
- Alexandro Sirodia
- Sherry Anne Pancho
- Mickie Hirata
- Bethany Cole
- Bethany Anderson

I commend each of you for your work on your Sustainability-In-Action Project. Many of you have taken your first steps toward becoming leaders in your community, conceiving projects of sustainable development and working with others to realize those projects to preserve and consume wisely our earth's limited resources. Each of you attending the Annual Youth Leadership Summit, as forward-thinking citizens of our world community, will be shaping our collective future, so I encourage you to think big.

We all need to think creatively, plan carefully and work diligently for the future of our communities and our world. We know there will be challenges that are often not possible to predict, and they may be daunting, but they also bring unlimited opportunities for success. I look forward to hearing the many ideas that result from this year's forum.

Hawai'i is the most isolated archipelago in the world, and we therefore understand the need for sustainability. It is vital to the future of our state. Our state's greatest strength is rooted in our diverse multicultural heritage and the cherished values imparted by our Hawaiian elders and teachers. We have much to share about friendship and cooperation. Embracing the spirit of *aloha*, we will succeed in securing a sustainable future by welcoming new ideas and striving to approach our common challenges constructively and collectively.

My very best wishes for a successful and productive forum.

Me ke aloha pumehana (with warm aloha),

NEIL ABERCROMBIE

Governor, State of Hawai'i