

Mike Nakasone

2013

Pearl City HS

Haawaii

HE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A SHY AND HUMBLE MAN WHO IS MOST COMFORTABLE PERFORMING WITH HIS BACK TO THE AUDIENCE. YET, THROUGH HIS QUIET CHARACTER AND DISPOSITION, HE IS A GIANT IN THE FIELD OF MUSIC.

MICHAEL NAKASONE WAS RAISED IN HILO, HAWAII. AFTER HIS GRADUATION FROM HILO HIGH SCHOOL, HE WAS A KEYBOARD PLAYER FOR A LOCAL ROCK BAND DURING THE 1960'S. HE STUDIED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA WHERE HE EARNED HIS BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREES IN MUSIC EDUCATION.

HIS CAREER BEGAN IN 1968 AS AN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL BAND DIRECTOR AND THEN IN 1973 AS A HIGH SCHOOL BAND DIRECTOR. IN 1977 HE BECAME THE BAND DIRECTOR FOR PEARL CITY HIGH SCHOOL WHERE HIS CAREER WOULD JUST BEGIN TO FLOURISH.

UNDER NAKASONE'S DIRECTION THE PEARLY CITY BAND BECAME WORLD RENOWN. THEY HAVE PERFORMED IN THE ALAHOA FESTIVALS PARADE (HAWAII) THE MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE (NEW YORK) THE GINZA PARADE (TOKYO) AND THE TOURNAMENT OF ROSES PARADE (CALIFORNIA)

RECOGNITION S GENERATED BY HIS PROGRAMS INCLUDE THE 1992 JOHN PHILIP SOUSA FLAG OF HONOR WHICH IS THE HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF A HIGH SCHOOL FOR EXCELLENCE IN CONCERT PERFORMANCE. IN 1995, THE BAND WORLD LEGION OF HONOR RECOGNIZED NAKASONE AS ONE OF THE TEN BEST BAND DIRECTORS IN THE NATION. IN 1996, HE WAS NAMED THE HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR. IN 1992 HE WAS NAMED THE DIRECTOR OF THE PEARL CITY HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS LEARNING CENTER. IN 1996 HE RECEIVED THE UNITED STATES COLLEGIATE WIND BANDS CITATION OF HONOR. IN 2005 HE RECEIVED THE HAWAII MUSIC AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT.

IN 2005 HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE ROYAL HAWAIIAN BAND AND HE IS THE ONLY BANDMASTER OF THE ROYAL HAWAIIAN BAND TO HAVE HAD THE DISTINCTION OF BEING INVITED INTO THE PRESTIGIOUS AMERICAN BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION.

HIS PEARL CITY PRINCIPAL CALLS HIM THE SINGLE MOST INFLUENTIAL AND RESPECTED BAND DIRECTOR IN THE STATE OF HAWAII. THE PEARL CITY MUSIC PROGRAM IS THE PRIDE OF THE COMMUNITY.

IN HIS OWN WORDS, MICHAEL NAKASONE STATES THAT HE CAN HELP STUDENTS REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMUNITY WHILE EXPERIENCING THE PURE PLEASURE OF KNOWING THEY HAVE BROUGHT JOY TO THOSE WHO HEAR THE MUSIC. AS A TEACHER, I AM ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO IMPROVE AND TO INCLUDE MORE STUDENTS IN MUSIC. WHEN I GIVE MY BEST, MY STUDENTS RETURN THEIR BEST. SUCCESS BREEDS SUCCESS.

IT IS THROUGH THAT SUCCESS THAT THE HIGH SCHOOL BAND DIRECTOR NATIONAL ASSOCIATION HAS NAMED YOU AS A RECIPIENT OF THE 2012 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BAND DIRECTOR'S HALLOF FAME.