



PRESS RELEASE

Office of Representative Lynn DeCoite
Contact: Rebecca Crall
email: r.crall@capitol.hawaii.gov
808.586.6790

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rep. DeCoite Receives Women of Excellence Award at NFWL Annual Conference

San Antonio, Texas – Rep. Lynn DeCoite (D- Moloka'i) received the Women of Excellence Award along side colleagues from across the country at the National Foundation of Women Legislators (NFWL) last night during an awards dinner at the organizations annual convention that is being held in San Antonio, Texas.

The "Elected Women of Excellence" Award was created to identify elected women who have worked tirelessly, often breaking down barriers and overcoming obstacles that once seemed insurmountable, to serve their communities. These pacesetters have engendered an environment where women can now serve in public office and fight for the issues they are passionate about.

This award was established in 2013 as part of NFWL's 75th Anniversary Celebration in order to honor the hard work and dedication of women leaders from across the country. At most, one Republican and one Democrat from each state can be selected for this prestigious honor. Rep. DeCoite is the first awardee selected from Hawaii since the awards inception.

"What a tremendous honor!" said Rep. Lynn DeCoite "I am proud to stand with my fellow awardees, remarkable women from across the country, and am truly humbled to receive this award. I don't do this job or serve my community for the recognition, but this award from other elected women is delightfully unexpected and fills me with even more Aloha."

"I also want to thank Senator Donna Mercado Kim for introducing me to NFWL and for nominating me for this award." Rep. DeCoite continued. "Senator Kim has paved the way for so many of us. I also want to send her my congratulations as she takes the helm as NFWL's next Board Chair ."

Representative Lynn DeCoite has proudly served in the Hawaii State House of Representatives since February of 2015 representing District 13. District 13 is the only true canoe district and includes East Maui, Kaho'olawe, Molokini, Lana'i and Moloka'i.

Lynn DeCoite a third-generation homestead farmer. She and her husband, Russell DeCoite, own and operate their family farm - L&R Farm Ent LLC, known for the famous Molokai purple sweet potato. Lynn went to Moloka'i High School and then attended Moloka'i Community College. She is a devoted wife and proud mother of three children and exuberant Grandma to two grandchildren.

Rep. DeCoite is the current Vice Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture, a member of the House Committee on Lower & Higher Education and a member of the House Committee on Tourism & International Affairs. She also serves as the Chair of the Agriculture Committee for the Council of State

Governments – West (CSG West). Rep. DeCoite has served as the Hawaii State Director for NFWL since 2018 and has been a member of the organization since 2017.

NFWL is a non-partisan 501c3, educational foundation for elected women on the state, county, and municipal levels. The mission of NFWL is to provide strategic resources to elected women for leadership development, exchange of diverse legislative ideas, and effective governance through conferences, state outreach, educational materials, professional and personal relationships, and networking. NFWL encourages the election and/or appointment of women to public office.

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Photo Attachment:

- Rep. Lynn DeCoite
- Rep. DeCoite with fellow awardees (photo from NFWL Facebook Page)
- Scott Carter of PM Capital, Rep. DeCoite and Elizabeth Loudy the Executive Director of State Government Affairs Council (SGAC) . Scott and Elizabeth presented Rep. DeCoite with the Award.

Resources:

- NFWL Website: <https://www.womenlegislators.org/>
- NFWL "Women of Excellence" Page: <https://www.womenlegislators.org/programs/excellenceawards/>

Representative Lynn DeCoite serves House District 13, which includes the areas of Haiku, Hana, Kaupo, Kipahulu, Nahiku, Paia, Kahoolawe, Molokini, Lanai and Moloka'i.