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Career & Workplace

PBN names Dennis Brown as Career Achievement Honoree for Most Admired Leaders awards



Dennis Brown is the president and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawaii.

EUGENE TANNER | PBN



By [Christina O'Connor](#) – Senior Digital Editor, Pacific Business News
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Pacific Business News is excited to announce that Dennis Brown, president and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawaii, has been named this year's Career Achievement Honoree for Hawaii's Most Admired Leaders awards.

Formerly known as the Business Leadership Hawaii awards, Hawaii's Most Admired Leaders awards recognize exceptional executives who have made significant contributions in their companies and their communities.

The PBN leadership team selected Brown as the Career Achievement Honoree for his long, impactful career at the helm of Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawaii, a nonprofit that pairs adult volunteers with at-risk youth for one-to-one mentoring. He has helmed the organization for the last 25 years, making him the nonprofit's longest-serving leader.

Throughout the years, Brown has grown the Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawaii staff, increased its budget, and led it through pivoting to a remote format during the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Earlier this year, [Brown announced](#) that he will retire at the end of 2023.

When asked what he is the proudest of during his career, Brown said, "Our team effort to make positive impacts on hundreds of children, youth, families and volunteer mentors."

"Their inspiring success stories warm my heart," he said.

Brown knows firsthand the impact that Big Brothers Big Sisters can have: He was the organization's first "Little Brother" in Hawaii at the age of 9. He credits his time spent with his mentor, Henry Sumida, as being transformative in his life.

Brown [told PBN in a previous interview](#), "the impact of what we do isn't really seen until the child grows up, because it's preventive in nature. As a 9-year-old, I didn't have a clue that this was good for me. I didn't know why I was doing it, I was just having fun."

As his retirement nears, Brown said that his top priority for the next few months is preparing his successor, current COO Tyler Kurashige, to take over as CEO on Jan. 1, 2024. Other priorities include, "moving us back into a large enough office space for everyone after working from home since the 2020 beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, and making the transition of my leaving as smooth as possible for the organization and its future."

When asked what being named as Career Achievement Honoree means to him, Brown said, "For the organization, it validates the outstanding job our team does and the tremendous positive impact they've had on thousands of children and youth over the past 25 years."

"For me personally, it affirms that lessons I learned from my own mentors – including my and BBBS Hawaii's first, Henry Sumida – helped shape me into a determined and successful leader able to grow and sustain our organization over time," he said.

Congratulations to Brown, and to [all of the Most Admired Leaders](#).

The recognition event will be held from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Nov. 9 at Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach.

For more information and to register, click [here](#).