

**NOMINATION FOR THE RCUH  
OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Project/Program: \_\_\_\_\_

***is hereby nominated for the RCUH OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR  
AWARD in recognition of his/her outstanding performance, contributions, and  
achievements.***

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Print: Principal Investigator*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature: Principal Investigator*

Instructions:

- Using the space provided below, complete a brief explanation of how the nominee meets the Award's criteria of "demonstrable, significant, and outstanding" performance in the following (4) categories:
  - Contribution to the improvement of the quality, scope, efficiency, and/or economy of the RCUH project or operation
  - Single or unique project or outstanding accomplishment, whether or not included within the scope of the employee's job
  - For ideas, recommendations, or suggestions, including a plan of action for implementation or completion, that significantly affects the project's objectives and accomplishments
  - Sustained outstanding performance of duties throughout the year
- Do not submit any ATTACHMENTS with this form - attachments will **NOT** be considered in the selection process.
- The nominee must be in a Regular status position and have passed his/her new hire probation period.
- Each category is weighted equally on a 25 point scale (i.e., scoring from 0-25 per category).
- The highest point totals will determine the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners.

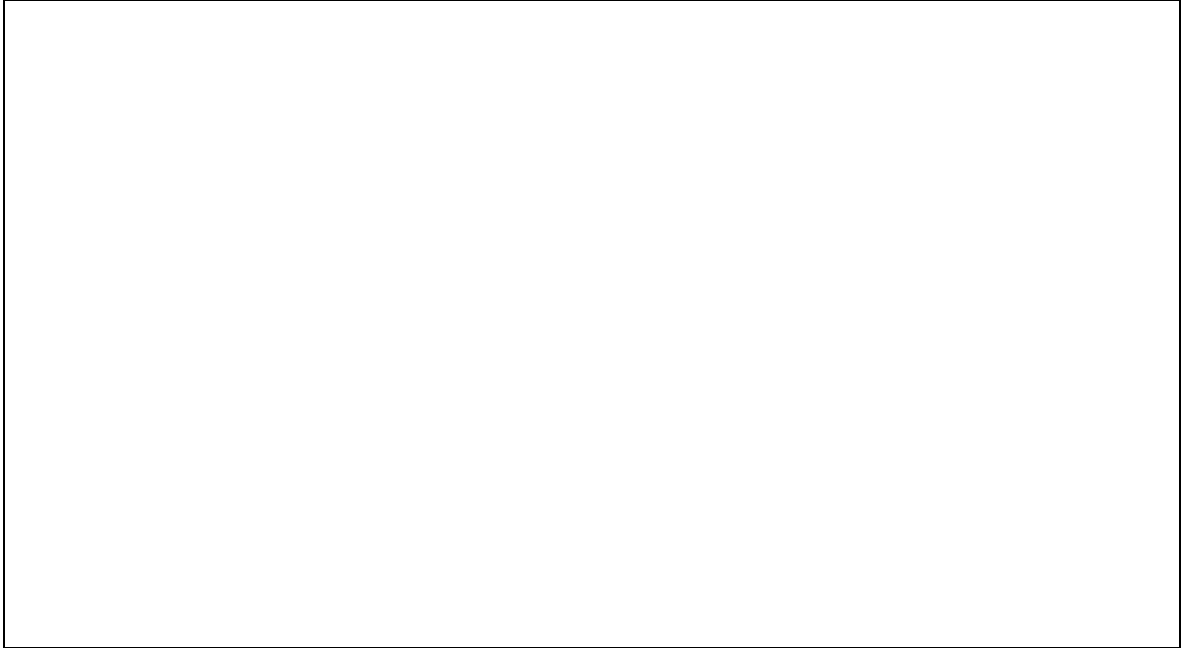
RCUH Outstanding Employee of the Year Award Criteria

(For each category, identify the period (weeks or months) and date(s) for the significant, outstanding performance.)

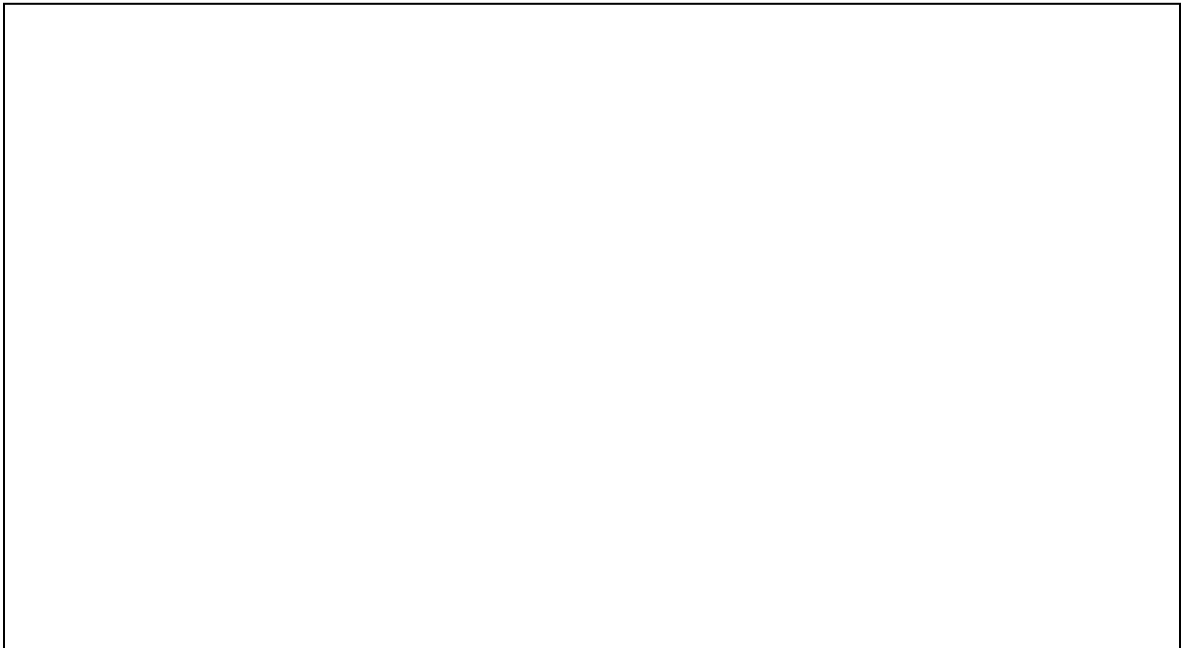
- (1) Contribution to the improvement of the quality, scope, efficiency, and/or economy of the RCUH project or operation. (25 pts)

- (2) Single or unique project or outstanding accomplishment, whether or not included within the scope of the employee's job. (25 pts)

- (3) For ideas, recommendations, or suggestions, including a plan of action for implementation or completion, that significantly affects the project's objectives and accomplishments. (25 pts)



- (4) Sustained outstanding performance of duties throughout the year. (25 pts)



# SAMPLE NOMINATION

Print Form

3.450 RCUH Outstanding Employee of the Year Award

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Print: Principal Investigator

  
Signature: Principal Investigator

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# SAMPLE NOMINATION

3.450 RCUH Outstanding Employee of the Year Award

## RCUH Outstanding Employee of the Year Award Criteria

(For each category, identify the period (weeks or months) and date(s) for the significant, outstanding performance.)

- (1) Contribution to the improvement of the quality, scope, efficiency, and/or economy of the RCUH project or operation. (25 pts)

Astronomy today is one of the most competitive sciences. Mauna Kea Observatories including Subaru have a big share in the frontier of astronomy. Modern telescopes and instruments such as camera or spectrograph are highly sophisticated, and also unique in that each instrument is one-of-a-kind using most advanced technology available currently. The "Gen2" software Eric Jeschke and Takeshi Inagaki successfully commissioned this year (2011) is for controlling the telescope and instruments for observations. Subaru had been using a system called "SOSS" that was put together at the time the telescope was commissioned in 1999, a product by the collaboration of the Japanese astronomers and a computer company. The annual cost of developing and commissioning SOSS from 1999 to 2004 was approximately at [redacted] level a year. Since then the SOSS budget had been reduced every year, and finally in 2008 we stopped paying the contractor for the SOSS support entirely. The cost of computer related observatory budget other than the rental fees of the hardware system was at the level more than [redacted], but now is brought down to a [redacted] dollars a year since 2009.

A big part of this cost reduction measure is the success of the in-house Gen2 project that replaced the old SOSS system with higher level of performance, reliability and optimization.

- (2) Single or unique project or outstanding accomplishment, whether or not included within the scope of the employee's job. (25 pts)

The observation control system has to communicate with tens of computers buried throughout the telescope/instrument system distributed at the summit of Mauna Kea, in the Hilo Base Facility and even some in Japan. These computers are constantly upgraded and replaced and yet have to operate most every night. The new "Gen2" system has an extremely disciplined interface structure and highly controlled version management to meet the reliability requirements the Subaru Telescope system demands. Furthermore, it eliminated all "black boxes" that were embedded in the SOSS system delivered by the external contractor, thus increasing timely serviceability, and placing trouble shooting completely under our own control. It also enables us to upgrade the Gen2 system anytime as more demanding new instruments are brought onto the telescope. This is happening even right now as we are commissioning a most advanced wide field camera on any ground telescopes ever. This is being managed entirely in-house.

As the result of the success of the in-house Gen2 project, the "observation efficiency", one of the important figure-of-merits of the observatory operation was also improved by probably more than 10%. Any downtime of the system that idles the telescope or the instruments would reduce the observation efficiency, thus the chance of discovery, or the quality of the data for detailed scientific research. This improvement has been possible with the Gen2 software team working closely with the observatory support astronomers, operators, telescope and instrument support staffs and, of course, the community astronomers who use the Subaru Telescope.

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- (3) For ideas, recommendations, or suggestions, including a plan of action for implementation or completion, that significantly affects the project's objectives and accomplishments. (25 pts)

The decision to develop an in-house observation control system was made several years ago. Decision was made to save the cost, which was achieved at the level more than we expected. Decision was also made due to strong confidence and deep knowledge of the old system acquired by the software engineering team that included at the start of project in addition to Eric and Tekeshi, Bruce Bon and Arne Grimstrup.

The fact that Subaru Telescope's RCUH engineering staffs completed in-house project successfully will have definite impacts on our future computer related budget. We have been renting our system from the construction phase, initially paying about [REDACTED] annually, which is now reduced to the current annual budget of approximately [REDACTED]. We are confident that this amount would be reduced further with the capability demonstrated by the Gen2 team.

- (4) Sustained outstanding performance of duties throughout the year. (25 pts)

The "Gen2" members also have responsibilities to operate and maintain the observation control system that includes nightly on-call assignments. During the commissioning period that ended this year, they had responsibilities to both old "SOSS" and new "Gen2". We did not lose one single night during this time due to observation control system problems, which is a remarkable achievement by itself for such a complex system.

Note: The cost figures cited above are not in public domain. We appreciate careful handling of these figures.