



Community Connection

Office of Senator David Y. Ige—District 16

Volume 3, Issue 2

January 31, 2006

MAKING THEIR MARKS

It's time for the 43rd Hawaii Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards!

The world of art will come alive on Sunday, January 29th, when the winners of the **Hawaii Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards** program will be honored for their dedication and talent in the field of art. Open to Hawaii's middle and high school students from both public and private schools, the **Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards** program showcases some of the most talented up-and-coming artists' works in the state! If you enjoy art, this is a must-see event, as students get a chance to enter their work in a number of categories, including computer and digital art, jewelry design, ceramic and glass, fiber, photography, printmaking, and video and film.

The **Hawaii Regional** competition will begin on Sunday, January 29, with various exhibits displayed throughout February, and will end on Wednesday, March 1. Those students whose works merit commendation by the judges will be recognized as **American Vision Awards** nominees, with the highest honor, the **Gold Key**, a symbol of achievement by the **Scholastic Art and Writing Awards**, going to the regional finalist. Regional **Gold Key** finalists will be invited to participate at the national level of competition, with their artwork on display at the Alliance for Young

Artists in New York City. Pearl City and Aiea district schools were well-represented in last year's program, and, according to Mr. Roy Chang, an art teacher at Aiea Intermediate, as well as the regional co-chairperson for the program, it looks like the pool of talented kids from the 16th district are ready to get the competition started!

The **2006 American Vision Awards** will be held at the Exhibition Space, located on the Upper Lobby level, at 1132 Bishop Street. Please mark your calendars for this important event, as our young artists prepare to make their marks on the wonderful world of art!

For more information, you may call my office, at 586-6230, or visit my website, www.davidige.org for more photos and from the event!



Photos of the event with featured award-winning artwork by Alex Nakamoto of Highlands Intermediate and Shannon Webb of Aiea Intermediate.

Congratulations to all winners from District 16 schools!

Aiea High School: Melanie Minami

Aiea Intermediate: Mika Key Verdida, Shannon Webb, Thuy Ny Le, Phillip Madriaga

Highlands Intermediate: Alex Nakamoto, Rachel Gertz

Here Ye, Here Ye!

Waimalu Elementary school looks forward to meeting its reading goals for 2006.

Advocates and proponents of educational achievement are always happy to hear of when children challenge themselves academically. When the students at **Waimalu Elementary** school, with the assistance of school librarian, **Sandra Takishita**, ingeniously devised their own plan to meet the reading goals for this year, students and parents alike wanted to share their efforts with the larger community.

Combining academic goals with fun, the kids at **Waimalu Elementary** challenged their principal, **Mrs. Kaylene Yee**, now in her eleventh

year at Waimalu, to "kiss a pig" if the students met the marks for reading. When Mrs. Yee was asked about the project, she laughingly confirmed that she has indeed, agreed to puckering up to a live pig if all the classes meet their yearly goals. Any plan, no matter how well-conceived, cannot work without support, and this plan, to be sure, is one that has not only overwhelming support by the school's ohana, but also by those who have embraced the love of learning and reading.



THE MAKING OF A ROLE MODEL

meet Waimalu Elementary school's Micah Lee!

Known around campus as the 'anchor' of "Warrior News," **Micah Lee**, a sixth-grader at **Waimalu Elementary**, has the drive and determination of a natural leader. Every Monday morning, the children at **Waimalu Elementary** watch and listen in their classrooms, as **Micah**, who devotes his Friday afternoons to videotaping the school-wide news program, recaps the preceding week's events, as well as updates on future projects.

As any parent will tell you, no matter how old our children get, we always worry about their well-being. For **Micah**, who lives with a condition known as *Osteogenesis Imperfecta*, a genetic disorder that leaves his bones brittle and susceptible to injury, one can imagine that safety is more than a simple concern. Not to worry. While the disorder obviates a need for some precaution, **Micah**, who is a great bowler, attributes much of his can-do attitude to the support he receives from his parents, **Jan and Solomon Lee**. Not only does he excel academically, but **Micah** has also discovered a talent for public speaking, and in doing so, has become a celebrity of sorts at school.

Congratulations on your effort and way to go, **Micah!**

The **Community Connection** is published and distributed by the **Office of Senator David Y. Ige**.

Phone: 808.586.6230 * **Fax:** 808.586.6231

Website: www.davidige.org

e-mail: sendige@capitol.hawaii.gov

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us!

Transportation Notes

Updates from the Department of Transportation

While the rainy weather we've been having is perfect for sleeping in, wet conditions on the freeways often translate to even more time spent on the road, commuting to and from work and home. While we all understand the frustration with the delays that rainy weather brings, the Department of Transportation does have good news for Pearl City and Aiea residents!

According to Scott Ishikawa, a spokesperson for the DOT, work on the lane widening project is scheduled to resume as early as next week, weather permitting. Road crews hope to get back to work on the portion of freeway between the Halawa and Pearl City interchanges, installing expansion joints and electrical wiring. Due to the nature of the work, the Department of Transportation anticipates closing **both directions** of the freeway on **Monday, February 6**, from approximately 9:30 p.m., until 4:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 7th. **West-bound lanes only**, will be closed again, on **Tuesday, February 7**, from 9:30 p.m., until 4:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 8th, as crews continue their work.

We'll all benefit from this project, so please allow a few extra minutes for any traffic delays.

For more information, you may call my office at the Capitol, at **586-6230**. Or, you may contact the Department of Transportation directly, at **587-6316**.