



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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(See link to winning short stories/illustrations and winning videos at end of press release).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2009 Hawaii Civil Rights Commission’s *E Ola Pono* Short Story and Video Competition Winners Announced

On May 4, 2009, the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission (HCRC), in partnership with the University of Hawaii’s Center on Disability Studies, announced the winners of the statewide 2009 *E Ola Pono* Short Story and Video Competition for private, charter, and public school students in grades 4 through 12. Once again, the HCRC encouraged Hawaii’s students to think about what it means to live in a *pono* community, to attend a *pono* school, and to live a *pono* life. Through our *E Ola Pono* project, we hope to get students, teachers, parents, and community members to begin a dialogue about what it means to live *pono* – to respect others, ourselves, the ‘aina and to live in harmony with all things. This dialogue then is articulated in the creation of short stories or videos that illustrate what it means to be *pono*.

The HCRC was created to protect civil rights in Hawai‘i. *Pono* encompasses the values of inclusion, respect, and human dignity that underlie civil rights. Our state motto embraces the concept of *pono* – “*Ua mau ke ea o ka ‘āina i ka pono*, The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness.” It is our civic responsibility to take care of one another, and nurture our precious resources – *ka ‘āina*. The *E Ola Pono* competition is the HCRC’s way of promoting, protecting and ensuring the civil rights of all of Hawaii’s people through the utilization of a significant Hawaiian cultural value that resonates with Hawaii’s citizens.

The HCRC once again received the generous and enthusiastic support of its efforts to broaden the theme of its art contest from the State of Hawai‘i-Department of Education, the Hawai‘i Association of Charter Schools, and the Hawai‘i Association of Independent Schools.

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The HCRC also is thankful to Hawaiian Telcom for its continuing support, in the form of producing all the promotional materials for this year's competition.

The HCRC is proud to announce the winners of the 2009 *E Ola Pono* Short Story and Video Competition:

E Ola Pono Short Story Winners:

4 th -5 th Grades	1st Place:	Lopaka O'Connor	"Ka Mana o ka 'Ohana"	Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo PCS
4 th -5 th Grades	2nd Place:	Melia Auld	"Max's Littering Story"	Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo PCS
6 th Grade	1st Place:	Nalei Maukele	"Kina'ole the Kolohe"	Blanche Pope Elem.
	2nd Place:	Damian Kuluhiwa	"Ponology at the Zoo"	Kamehameha Schools - Maui Campus
	3rd Place:	Christian Thomas	"Pono Bunny"	Blanche Pope Elem.

E Ola Pono Short Story Video/PSA Winners:

7-8th grades:	1st Place	Mālama 'Āina	Hālau Lōkahi
High School:	1st Place	<i>'O ke Aloha</i>	Kailua H.S.
	1st Place	Pono: A Way of Life	Kaiser H.S.
	2nd Place	<i>Aia i Hi'ikua</i>	Kailua H.S.
	3rd Place	The Right Gambit	Farrington H.S.
	Honorable Mention	Receive the Award	Maui H.S.
	Honorable Mention	Lending a Helping Hand	Campbell H.S.

According to the HCRC Executive Director William D. Hoshijo, "At its core, civil rights are about treating each other with dignity and respect. Too often, we get caught up in legal arguments and political debate. The students remind us through their short stories and videos that these are basic and fundamental human values. Civil rights relate directly to the Hawaiian value of *pono*. We all should ask ourselves the question that the students address - What kind of Hawaii do we want to live in?"

NOTE: Electronic files of the winning short story entries can be viewed, along with the winning video entries and this press release, on the HCRC website, <http://hawaii.gov/labor/hcrc/>.

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