



LT. GOVERNOR AIONA COMMENDS HAWAII SCIENCE OLYMPIAD STUDENTS

For Immediate Release: May 26, 2010

HONOLULU - Lt. Governor Duke Aiona today issued the following statement to congratulate students from Mililani High School and Maui Preparatory Academy for their high marks at the National Science Olympiad Tournament.

"On a national stage against tough competition, these students performed admirably and represented Hawaii with honor and distinction. I'm proud of them.

"The Science Olympiad in Hawaii continues to gain steam with more than 750 students in 40 public, private and home schools participating every year.

"I continue to support the expansion of the Science Olympiad Urban Schools Initiative to Hawaii to serve a larger number of students and teachers in underserved communities.

"The initiative would improve science, technology, engineering and math education and open up new doors for many students in research and technology. Students who engage in STEM education, with the support of parents, teachers and mentors are gaining critical thinking skills that will help them throughout their future careers."

About 2,400 middle and high school students from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada competed in the 26th annual Science Olympiad National at the University of Illinois on May 22. The students, representing 120 teams of champions from across country, competed in more than four dozen events in areas such as astronomy, genetics, chemistry, computing and zoology.

Students from Mililani High School and Maui Preparatory Academy received honors in the following subject areas:

Chad Uyehara and Tru Dang from Mililani High School ranked 10th in the nation for *Elevated Bridge (Engineering)* which challenged students to design, construct and test the most efficient bridge meeting pre-specified requirements.

Arielle Uejo and Cyrus Takahashi from Mililani High School ranked 10th in the nation for *Technical Problem Solving (Inquiry & Nature of Science)* that required students to measure, gather and process data manually and technologically to solve given problems.

Julia Addie Goldblatt from Maui Preparatory Academy ranked 7th in the nation for *Ecology (Life, Personal & Social Science)* that emphasized content knowledge and process skills in the area of ecology and adaptations in North American biomes.

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