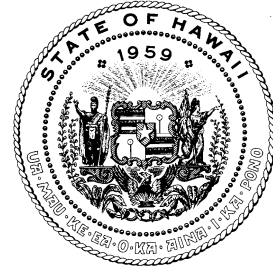


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## **PRESS RELEASE**

April 4, 2012

### **KAUA‘I STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN 2012 HAWAII‘I STATE SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR**

HONOLULU – Fifteen Kauai students who won divisions in the Kaua‘i District Island-wide Science Fair participated in the 2012 Hawai‘i State Science & Engineering Fair (HSSEF) held at the Hawai‘i Convention Center from April 2 – 4, 2012. The HSSEF, now in its 55th year, is the oldest and largest science fair held in Hawai‘i. Each year, more than 7,000 students participate in science fair programs throughout the State, with approximately 500 of these students qualifying to compete in the HSSEF.

The following Kaua‘i students qualified to participate in the 2012 HSSEF and were also division winners in the Kaua‘i District Island-wide Science Fair: Julia Hirano, Emily Carlson, Cheyenne Natividad-Parraga, BreeAnn Cabayan, Sharay Rapozo, Jacky Lin, and Braden Kobayashi of Waimea Canyon Middle School, Mallorie Aiwohi, of Kapa‘a Middle School, Savannah Frisk, Casey Nakamura, Taylor McGinnis, Kalani Murakami and Marissa Goo of Kapa‘a High School, Kayla Ishida of Waimea High School, and Noelani Murray of Kaua‘i High School.

While on Oahu, the students visited the State Capitol to observe the Senate and House Legislative Sessions, and met with the Kaua‘i legislative delegation, which includes Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Representative James Tokioka, Representative Dee Morikawa and Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami. Senator Ronald D. Kouchi spoke to the students and commended them on their accomplishments. Senator Kouchi stated, "It is inspiring to see so many students interested and excelling in the science, math, technology and engineering fields. Participating in science fairs such as the HSSEF gives students the unique opportunity to meet and learn from scientists, while gaining hands-on training. It is important for our youth to cultivate an interest in these fields which will help them in the increasingly technical global workforce."

(Photo Caption: Senator Ronald D. Kouchi with 2012 Hawaii State Science & Engineering Fair Kauai student participants.)

(Photo Courtesy: The Office of Ronald D. Kouchi)

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