



Congratulations to Team “6000 n 60”

Kohala Middles School Students won National Siemens Award!

Each year the *Siemens Foundation* holds a “*We Can Change the World Challenge*” that encourages student teams to work with a teacher or mentor to identify a wide range of environmental issues of concern and create a plan to make sustainable, reproducible improvements in their local communities. The idea behind the challenge is to empower youth to introduce change! Students are judged based on their local environmental issue, community engagement, creativity and innovation, scientific approach, and the ability to expand their entry content in other communities. Each member of the first place team received a \$10,000 U.S. savings bond, a discovery trip to Costa Rica, a pocket video camera to document their adventure, and a Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge green prize pack.



With the guidance of their team mentor, Lani Bowman, a group of Kohala Middle School students took the first place award for the grade 6-8 division of the 2010-2011 Siemens “*We Can Change the World Challenge*”. The students are Isabel Steinhoff, Rico Bowman, Genevieve Boyle, and Mina Apostadiro. The team of students, known as “6000 n 60” focused on the disposal of household batteries and how there were no local opportunities to recycle them. “6000 n 60” represents their goal

to collect 6000 batteries in 60 days. Their prediction was that if people were given the opportunity to recycle batteries and given information on how to better use those batteries, the community would be more aware of the ways in which they dispose their batteries and be more likely to participate.

In order for the community to be engaged in recycling batteries, the team designed their own logo, made t-shirts, and distributed pre-and post-surveys to promote and raise awareness in the community of Kohala. The school also through school also through their support behind the students with bulletins, assemblies, posters, PSAs, presentations to local organizations, a community kickoff event, guest speakers, and a Facebook page. "6000 n 60" has sent out battery recycling bins in various locations throughout their community, accomplishing their goal of collecting 6,000 batteries in 60 days. The team hopes to use their data to help the country create better approaches to battery recycling and provide opportunities to do so.



In addition to their success, students also had the honor to present their exhibit "Improving the Environment One Community at a Time" to President Obama and officials at the second White House Science Fair that took place on Tuesday, February 7, 2012. The Science Fair welcomed student winners who represented science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) competitions across the U.S.

Team members Isabel Steinhoff and Genevieve Boyle say the best part about their trip was having the opportunity to meet, and discuss their concerns regarding battery recycling with President Obama. Genevieve says it was wonderful it was to feel the "Aloha Spirit" that President Obama embraced when they met him. The girls found it fascinating to step foot in the White House to present their exhibit.



For those who would like to recycle their used batteries, "6000 n 60" will be hosting a battery collection themed "Be Green. Recycle your batteries" from St. Patrick's Day (March 17, 2012) to Earth Day (April 22, 2012). Throughout the community of North Kohala there will be battery recycling bins where you can conveniently drop off your old batteries at locations such as Arakaki, Takata, and Nakahara Stores. "60 n 6000" kindly asks that you only drop off batteries during collection dates only.

