

From: Hawai'i State Science Olympiad <hisciolympiad@GMAIL.COM>
Subject: Science Olympiad Updates (all islands) and National Tournament News
Date: May 26, 2010 8:57:06 AM HST
To: Hawai'i Science Teachers Association <hasta-L@lists.hawaii.edu>

Aloha friends and colleagues,

Today is the last day of a school year that truly tested us all educationally, financially, emotionally and spiritually. There has been plenty of bad news in the press lately so allow us to share with you some good news that reminds us all of why we became science educators.

This past weekend students from Mililani High School and Maui Preparatory Academy participated in the 26th Annual National Science Olympiad Tournament at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. The students were treated to tours in world-class research facilities, lectures and visits with top researchers, Nobel Laureates and potential Nobel Prize winners and got to meet students from all over the country that share their passion for science, technology, engineering and math. Our students participated in over forty different events that challenged them in fields of science including astronomy, biology, chemistry, engineering, forensics, genetic, physics, technology, zoology and science writing.

Here are some highlights from the tournament:

- Mililani High School Senior Andrew Miyasato represented the roughly 2,400 student participants at the opening ceremony by reading the participant's pledge.
- Mililani High School students Chad Uyehara and Tru Dang placed 10th out of 60 teams in the Elevated Bridge (engineering) event which challenged students to design, construct and test the most efficient bridge meeting pre-specified requirements.
- Mililani High School students Arielle Ujo and Cyrus Takahashi placed 10th out of 60 teams in the Technical Problem Solving (Inquiry & Nature of Science) event that required students to measure, gather and process data manually and technologically to solve given problems.
- Maui Preparatory Academy student Julia Addie Goldblatt placed 7th out of 60 teams in the Ecology (Life, Personal & Social Science) event that emphasized content knowledge and process skills in the area of ecology and adaptations in North American biomes.

Throughout the year we've been inundated with articles, commentary, figures and charts that tell us how the educational systems in Hawai'i are leaving our students behind. Programs like Science Olympiad, Science Fair, Robotics, and Science Bowl help remind us all that both we and our students are capable of working hard, competing hard, and succeeding in the fields related to science, technology, engineering and math. Our students have just as many gifts and talents as their peers on the continental U.S. and throughout the world and the students I've listed above are living proof.

The Honolulu Star-Bulletin ran a wonderful article on the two teams:

http://www.starbulletin.com/news/20100522_state_fields_2_teams_in_us_science_meet.html

Events for the 2010-2011 school year and 2011 Regional and Statewide Tournaments will be worked out by August/September and posted on our website, www.hssso.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! The tentative dates for regional and statewide Science Olympiad tournaments are:

Kauai Regional: Monday, January 17, 2011

Maui Regional: Saturday, January 29, 2011

Leeward Oahu Regional: Saturday, February 5, 2011

Windward Oahu Regional: TBA

7th Annual State Finals: Saturday, March 5, 2011

ALL regional tournaments are open to ALL schools (public, private, charter and home) on ALL islands. Regional tournaments are qualifying tournaments. Schools must participate in ONE and only ONE Regional Tournament to qualify to participate in the Statewide Tournament. Winners of the Statewide Tournament will be invited to participate in the 2011 National Science Olympiad Tournament at the University of Wisconsin - Madison in May 2011.

Registration will be online via www.hssso.org and will be open after the start of the 2010-2011 school year.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please don't hesitate to email us at hisciolympiad@gmail.com or email

the State Director, Mr. Franklin Allaire, at allaire@hawaii.edu.

You can also follow us on Twitter via "hisciolympiad" and join our Facebook Group "Hawaii State Science Olympiad" to keep up-to-date on the latest Science Olympiad information in and for Hawai'i.

Have a great summer! Please make sure to spend some time relaxing and enjoying time with friends and family!

Aloha!

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