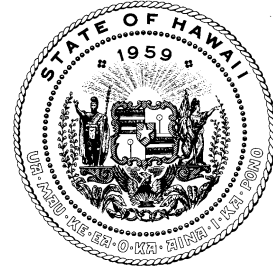


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## **PRESS RELEASE**

January 20, 2012

### **KALAHEO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S ROBOMINATIONS LEGO TEAM HONORED**

KAUAI- Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, along with Darlene Chung, owner/operator of McDonalds Restaurants on Kauai, and Ruth Johnson, Kauai McDonalds Human Resources Manager, teamed up to honor the students and coaches of Kalaheo Elementary School's Robominations Lego Team. The Robominations Lego Team captured the District Championship Title at the First Lego League 2011 Food Factor Kauai Tournament, by accumulating the highest overall points in the competition among twelve participating elementary schools on Kauai. As District Champion, the team had the honor of representing Kauai at the State Championships held on the island of Oahu.

Senator Ronald D. Kouchi recognized the team's hard work and dedication by presenting each team member and coach with a senate certificate commending their accomplishment. "Academic achievements are far too often overlooked and it gives me great pleasure to congratulate and recognize the team members and coaches," he said.

In recognition of their success, McDonalds Restaurants of Kauai awarded gift certificates to the team and coaches. Upon seeing the children's excitement and appreciation, Senator Kouchi added, "I think it is wonderful that Darlene Chung and McDonalds of Kauai are strong supporters of the robotics program. It is programs such as these that inspire student interest in science, math, and technology."

The Kalaheo Robominations Lego Team is comprised of team members Alexandra Centra, Sage Cierras, Olivia Gegen, Kenyon Johnson, Kaden Keep, Emily Melchor, Jaedyn Pavao, Coby L. Simon, Levi Snowden and Luke Sullivan. Robominations coaches include Rosemary Laulea Smyth, Traci Sullivan, and Gaetano Vasta.

The First Lego League Food Factor Tournament provides students the opportunity to utilize and develop their skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics by researching the topic of food safety, and providing innovative solutions to problems involving food sanitation, preparation and storage.

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Students are judged on developing, building, testing and programming an autonomous robot to address these specific food safety concerns.

(Photo Courtesy: Office of Ronald D. Kouchi)

(Photo Caption: Sen. Kouchi presents a certificate of recognition to Kalaheo Elementary School's Robominations Lego Team)

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