STEM Students Shine at Statewide Robotics Competition

On Saturday, December 3rd, the Hā Initiative: Creative STEM After-School Program competed at the Hawai‘i First Robotics State Competition at the Blaisdell Center in Honolulu. A total of six HCAP teams from four STEM Exploration Centers entered the First Lego League competition, including three Explore teams and three Challenge teams. The Explore teams consist of students ages 6 to 10 and focus on the fundamentals of engineering as they explore real-world problems and learn to design, code, and create unique solutions. The Challenge teams consist of students ages 9 to 16 and engage in research, problem-solving, coding, and engineering through building and programming a LEGO robot that navigates the missions of a robot game.

The Hā Initiative’s Challenge Team from Ka‘iulani STEM Exploration Center placed 8th out of 51 teams competing in the robot games from across the state. The Explore Teams from both Ka‘iulani and Windward STEM Exploration Centers were also honored for their Team Model Builds and Lincoln STEM Exploration Center’s Explore Team was honored for Team Poster Design.
Just days before the competition, the Explore Team from Lincoln STEM Exploration Center was unsure if they would be competing at all. The team usually consists of only two members, and one of the students was unable to attend the state competition that weekend. Fortunately, FIRST Lego League would allow the remaining member, Alexis, to compete alone on her team’s behalf. Though she was nervous and had only two days left before the competition, Alexis agreed to present their project to the judges on her own. Her teammate and coaches helped her prepare a speech and get comfortable with delivering the entire presentation about the team poster, team model, and core values.

During the event, each team presents in front of the judges without coaches or parents present. When Alexis came out of the judging room, she was excited to share that she was so comfortable presenting and answering the judges’ questions that she did not even need her notes. Thanks to Alexis’ hard work, her team was honored for best team poster. She was also awarded the FIRST Lego League Explorer medal for attending the competition. Congratulations to all of the Hā Initiative participants and coaches who competed!

Windward Client Surpasses Employment Milestones

Shay Boy came to HCAP’s Windward District Service Center for assistance with her job search. Staff assessed Shay Boy’s situation and connected her with resources from HCAP to overcome her employment barriers. She enrolled in the Nā Lima Hana Employment Core Services Program, and staff guided her through goal setting, resume writing, and Job Readiness Training, to make sure she was ready for applications and interviews. Shay Boy’s preparation paid off when she applied to Tropical Farms and was hired right away!

Continued on next page
She received employment attire and hygiene supplies from Nā Lima Hana for her first day on the job. Shay Boy has since completed 90 days of employment at Tropical Farms. Staff continues to follow up with her weekly, as well as provide gift card incentives as she completes her employment milestones. Shay Boy has also been participating in the Rent To Work Program, preparing her for the transition to affordable, independent housing. Staff are proud of Shay Boy’s positive attitude and progress throughout her challenging journey. “I appreciate you,” Shay Boy told the staff. “Thank you all so much for all the help!”

**HCAP Delivers 16 Refrigerators to Kūpuna This Holiday Season**

WAP staff was on-site to assist kupuna with the process and gift the residents with goodie bags filled with hygiene supplies as a little token of holiday cheer. The residents were overjoyed to receive their new energy-saving refrigerators, especially during the holiday season and as the cost of electricity has increased. Keeping up with household utility bills is significant and a key component of self-sustainability. It is the hope of HCAP and the WAP team to enable more individuals and families to have energy-efficient homes.

HCAP’s Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) team kicked off the holidays with a mass delivery of refrigerators to residents at the Hale Mohalu senior apartments. Nearly 30 qualifying seniors received services from WAP, an energy-efficiency initiative that assists residents in reducing the cost of their utility expenses by creating energy-efficient homes. In total, 29 seniors received services with 16 residents being eligible for brand-new energy star refrigerators!
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HCAP Hosts Clothing, Food, and Supply Drives for Local Families Island-Wide

HCAP Head Start & Early Head Start gave back to fellow organizations supporting families in need this Giving Tuesday. Donations included food, clothing, toiletries, and school supplies. Program staff then distributed these items to Child & Family Service, Family Promise of Hawai‘i, and the Institute for Human Services Women’s Shelter. At Kalihi-Palama District Service Center, staff hosted a clothing and baby supply drive for distribution in the local community. HCAP Corporate Office staff held a Giving Tuesday food drive in partnership with River Of Life Mission. Throughout the month of November, HCAP staff donated canned goods, bottled water, and other food items to deliver to River Of Life Mission on Tuesday, November 29.
Story Time with Head Start and Atlas Insurance

As part of a community partnership project, Atlas Insurance Agency employees visited HCAP Head Start classrooms throughout O‘ahu to read a variety of fun picture books to the keiki. Last week, a total of 12 employees visited Head Start classrooms at Ala Wai Elementary, ‘Ewa Elementary, President Thomas Jefferson Elementary, Kapalama Elementary, Lanakila Elementary, and Queen Ka‘ahumanu Elementary schools. Keiki at Jefferson Pre-Plus enjoyed gathering as a class to hear “Pete the Cat: Too Cool for School” and “Down by the Bay.” Mahalo to Atlas Insurance for giving back to the community and sharing stories with our Head Start keiki!

Engineering with the Hā Initiative

The Hā Initiative: Creative STEM After-School Program students at the Lincoln STEM Exploration Center enjoyed an engineering project to build the tallest possible lego building without exceeding a base width of 4 inches. The building had to stand alone without assistance for at least 10 seconds. Students worked in teams and added blocks as they built up, trying not to let their building fall within a 30-minute time constraint. The classroom groups worked together to make decisions, modifying their towers as they went. The activity was met with students’ enthusiasm and the competition results were close. The tallest building was recorded at 51.5 inches from the base and the second tallest was at 49 inches!
I is for Insect

The keiki at Kapalama Head Start expanded upon their investigation of insects and learning of the letter “I” by carefully collecting insects. While the keiki employed their visual and auditory skills to explore their outdoor environment, they collected insects using magnifying glasses and collection containers. In doing so, they learned and verbally recited the names of the insects. Through this expansive activity, the keiki learned to care for nature and insects, and improved their developmental skills.

Mahalo to Our Donors and Funders

October 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

Hawaiian Electric Industries HEI Charitable Foundation
$5,000 donation

Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association: Charity Walk 2022
$500 grant for the Kūpuna Independent Life Series

Atherton Family Foundation
$10,000 grant for the Hā Initiative: Creative STEM After-School Program

Atlas Insurance Agency Foundation
$5,000 donation

Individual Donors
Colleen Minami, Terrence Aratani, & Roxanne Bolden

Employee Anniversaries

Mahalo to our HCAP staff who reached the following service milestones this quarter

5 Years
Karin Gamulo
ERSEA Family Advocate

5 Years
Daelyn Doeh
Assistant Teacher

5 Years
Pauahi Leoiki
ERSEA Family Advocate

15 Years
Minerva Garcia
Assistant Teacher

15 Years
Val Tavai
Sr. Community Services Manager

15 Years
Carlotta Allen
Assistant Teacher

35 Years
Laura Guillermo
HR Assistant

5 Years
Winona Alapai
Assistant Teacher

5 Years
Jodi Woodward
Assistant Teacher

20 Years
Keleana Sabalboro
Assistant Teacher

5 Years
Karin Gamulo
ERSEA Family Advocate

5 Years
Daelyn Doeh
Assistant Teacher

5 Years
Carlotta Allen
Assistant Teacher

15 Years
Karin Gamulo
ERSEA Family Advocate

15 Years
Pauahi Leoiki
ERSEA Family Advocate

5 Years
Winona Alapai
Assistant Teacher

5 Years
Jodi Woodward
Assistant Teacher

5 Years
Daelyn Doeh
Assistant Teacher

5 Years
Pauahi Leoiki
ERSEA Family Advocate

15 Years
Minerva Garcia
Assistant Teacher

15 Years
Val Tavai
Sr. Community Services Manager

5 Years
Carlotta Allen
Assistant Teacher

15 Years
Jodi Woodward
Assistant Teacher

5 Years
Daelyn Doeh
Assistant Teacher

5 Years
Pauahi Leoiki
ERSEA Family Advocate
### Current Programs By Funding Source

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### Grants & Other Support

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### Expenses

#### Program Services:
- **Education & Childcare**: $10,012,252
- **Other Community Services**: $2,487,647
- **In-Kind Contributions**: $2,445,876

#### Supporting Services:
- **Management & General**: $2,023,751

**Total**: $16,966,526
HCAP Locations

Corporate Office
1132 Bishop Street, Suite 100
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 521-4531
Email: hcap@hcapweb.org

Central District Service Center
99-102 Kalaloa Street
ʻAiea, HI 96701
(808) 488-6834

Kalihi-Palama District Service Center
1555 Haka Drive, #2408
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 847-0804

Leahi District Service Center
1915 Palolo Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816
(808) 732-7755

Leeward District Service Center
85-555 Farrington Highway
Waikane, HI 96792
(808) 696-4261

Windward District Service Center
47-232 Waihe'e Road
Kāneʻohe, HI 96744
(808) 239-5754

Kumuhonua Transitional Living Center
91-1016 Yorktown Street
Kapolei, HI 96707
(808) 682-5494

HCAP Head Start & Early Head Start
94-810 Moloalo Street
Waipahu, HI 96797, Suite 200 & 210
(808) 847-2400

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