

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HONOLULU
FESTIVAL
FOUNDATION**

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***KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS MAUI WINS HONOLULU FESTIVAL'S
11TH ANNUAL MAUI MIKOSHI DESIGN CONTEST
Students to Showcase Winning Design at Festival Events, March 8-9***

HONOLULU – The Honolulu Festival announced today that the students of Kamehameha Schools Maui are the winners of the 11th Annual Maui Mikoshi Design Contest.

Under the guidance of Japanese language teacher Jared Mateaki and Global Studies and Business Law teacher Kealii Mossman, Kamehameha Schools Maui won the competition for the second straight year.

The Honolulu Festival invited Maui high schools to submit a *mikoshi* design based on this year's festival theme, "*Jubilation: One Heart, One Pacific, One World.*" A *mikoshi* is a decorative float unique to specific prefectures in Japan that is carried by groups of celebrants during festivals.

Kamehameha Schools Maui's winning design was inspired by the students' perceptions and experiences with multiculturalism, unity and love. The *mikoshi* design featured a balance of two specific cultures (Japanese and Hawaiian), and two ideas (traditional and modern). The unity of cultures can be seen in the details that make up the *mikoshi* (see accompanying artwork).

For example, the roof features two flowers floating in water as the students see water as a common element connecting Japan with Hawaii, both physically and culturally. The backdrop of the sun also depicts unity as Japan is known as the house of the rising sun, while Hawaii is the last place in the U.S. where the sun sets. The backdrop symbolizes that both cultures are connected in the circle of the day, and that the circle cannot be complete without either.

"The students are truly excited to be participating again this year and are looking forward to seeing their design brought to life," said Mateaki. "We are extremely grateful for the sponsors of this event, as it is a great learning experience for our students and is something they will remember for the rest of their lives."

For winning the competition, the students involved in the *mikoshi* design earned a free trip to Oahu to participate in the 20th Annual Honolulu Festival. They will display their *mikoshi* at the Hawaii Convention Center on Saturday, March 8, and then carry it through Waikiki in the Grand Parade on Sunday, March 9. Their trip is being sponsored by the Honolulu Festival Foundation, Hawaiian Airlines, Outrigger Hotels & Resorts, Kahili Golf Course, and the Maui Ocean Center.

"Kamehameha Schools Maui has created a wonderful *mikoshi* that thoughtfully connects the cultures of Japan and Hawaii in an elaborate and meaningful way," said Keiichi Tsujino, President of the Honolulu Festival Foundation. "We applaud the students and their teachers for designing a *mikoshi* that perfectly complements this year's Honolulu Festival theme by emphasizing the importance of cultural harmony and unity."

About the Honolulu Festival

Supported by the Honolulu Festival Foundation, Hawaii Tourism Authority, and corporate sponsors, the Honolulu Festival is celebrating its 20th year in 2014 with a weekend of *free* arts and cultural displays and entertainment performances for all to enjoy, March 7-9. Under the banner of "*Pacific Harmony*" and the theme, "*Jubilation, One Heart, One Pacific, One World*" the Honolulu Festival's goal is to help perpetuate the strong cultural and ethnic ties between the people of Asia-Pacific and Hawaii. The Honolulu Festival Foundation supports educational and cultural programs for the benefit of Hawaii's schoolchildren and the community-at-large through public outreach and charitable efforts.

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