



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL WINS HONOLULU FESTIVAL'S  
MAUI MIKOSHI DESIGN CONTEST***

***Students Win Trip to Oahu to Showcase Winning Design at Festival Weekend, March 11-13***

**HONOLULU** – The Honolulu Festival announces Baldwin High School as the winner of their 13th Annual Maui Mikoshi Design Contest. The students credited in creating the winning design will travel to Oahu for the 22nd annual Honolulu Festival. The winning design will be displayed before tens of thousands of residents and visitors in Honolulu, March 11-13.

A *mikoshi* is a decorative float unique to specific prefectures in Japan that is carried by groups of celebrants during festivals. High schools on Maui were invited to submit a *mikoshi* design based on this year's Honolulu Festival theme: "Cultural Harmony, Journey to Peace."

Under the guidance of Baldwin High School's Japanese language teacher Rory Sato, students drew inspiration from the festival theme, connecting both Hawaiian and Japanese culture in an elaborate way, tying in symbols that represent forms of "cultural harmony and peace" and worldwide unity.

Baldwin High School's *mikoshi* will be displayed at the Hawaii Convention Center on Saturday, March 12, and then carried through Waikiki in the Grand Parade on Sunday, March 13.

***Baldwin High School's winning mikoshi design:***



*FRONT*



*BACK*



*LEFT*



*RIGHT*



The student's design includes a canoe to represent the synergy and teamwork that is needed to achieve cultural harmony and peace, turtles to help guide us through the rough seas, lei to express a welcoming sense of aloha, and mats to represent how communities and cultures harmoniously intertwine. The four panels illustrate the ocean, which connects Pacific cultures. The front panel depicts rough waves showing the difficult journey to achieving peace, while the back panel is decorated with calm waters and a rising sun, symbolizing the goal of peace. The side panels have polynesian tribal symbols swirling like ocean currents, representing how cultures will need to work together to achieve peace.

### **About the Honolulu Festival**

Supported by the Honolulu Festival Foundation, Hawaii Tourism Authority, and corporate sponsors, the 22nd annual Honolulu Festival features a weekend of *free* arts and cultural displays and entertainment performances for all to enjoy, March 11-13. Under the banner of "*Pacific Harmony*" and the theme "*Cultural Harmony, Journey to Peace*" the Honolulu Festival's goal is to help perpetuate the strong cultural and ethnic ties between the people of Hawaii and the Pacific Rim. The Honolulu Festival Foundation supports educational and cultural programs for the benefit of Hawaii's school children and the community-at-large through public outreach and charitable efforts. For more information, visit [HonoluluFestival.com](http://HonoluluFestival.com).

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