

SAS student takes 2nd place in state-wide Eddie Aikau essay contest

WAILUKU – Jonathan Ibanez, a 7th grader at St. Anthony Junior-Senior High was awarded 2nd place in the 7th grade division in the 5th Annual Eddie Aikau Essay Contest. Ibanez and his parents, Joey and Elimar of Kahului, will be attending the Essay Awards Ceremony luncheon on Oahu at the Elks Club in Waikiki on Saturday, March 13th.

Ibanez was the only winner from Maui. Awards in the English Division included First, Second, Third places and two (2) Honorable-mention awards for each grade level (7, 8, & 9). Awards in the Hawaiian Language Division included First, Second, Third places and two (2) Honorable-mention awards for the overall Division, grades 7, 8, & 9 grade levels combined—these awards all went to the students at Ke Kula ‘O Nawahi’okalani ‘o Pu’u on the Big Island. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners in the English Division and the Hawaiian Language Division as follows: First place \$500, Second place \$350, Third place \$250, and \$100 for each of the two (2) Honorable mention winners.

The essay question was, “How were the Hawaiian values of MALAMA (to protect & care for; to serve & to honor) and PONO (rightness, balance,

integrity) reflected in Eddie Aikau's actions? The essay writers had to describe how these values influenced them and the actions they take in their lives by providing supporting examples or evidence. Ibanez's essay titled "The Audacity of Eddie", has the opening paragraph: "In the world, hundreds of people can say that they are phenomenal surfers. Even fewer can say that they are surfing legends, but only one can say that while under his supervision as the first lifeguard in Waimea Bay no lives were lost. Just one man can say that when the Hokule'a capsized in a storm he volunteered to look for help that seemed in reach but was actually miles away. Only one can say that he could ride waves with faces of forty feet with a smile that outshined the sun. Eddie Aikau was that one man, and while doing these amazing feats he reflected two very important Hawaiian values. Those values are Malama and Pono."

The Eddie Aikau Foundation is a charitable organization created to share Eddie Aikau's life, contributions and accomplishments while promoting education and the advancement of Hawaiian culture. The Foundation strives to inspire people to develop a strong sense of pride in themselves, their heritage and their community through Eddie's remarkable spirit and character, which will help them to develop a sense of pride in their own heritage and culture, so they can become productive members of their community.

