NEWS RELEASE

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Students’ Creativity Recognized in Commercial Script Writing Challenge
GEAR UP Hawai‘i Announces Winners

HONOLULU, HAWAI‘I – gearup.hawaii.edu – One hundred forty-five Hawai‘i students tried their hand at writing a creative commercial script that would encourage their peers to prepare for college and careers in the first-ever “Take Charge of Your Future Commercial Script Writing Challenge,” sponsored by GEAR UP Hawai‘i, Oceanic Time Warner Cable, and Clear Channel Hawai‘i. Hawai‘i public school students in sixth through 12th grade were encouraged to write a script for a 30-second commercial, which could be produced for television and radio. The contest received entries from 44 middle and high schools statewide.

GEAR UP Hawai‘i, a program under Hawai‘i P-20 Partnerships for Education, whose mission is to significantly increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education, is proud to announce the following winners:

Grand Prize: Leilani Pasol, Grade 10, Kauai High School

6th – 8th Grade Category:
First Place: Kellyn Murakoshi, Grade 8, Ewa Makai Middle School
Second Place: Kevin Zheng, Grade 7, Aiea Intermediate
Third Place: Camren Shardelman, Grade 6, Kealakehe Intermediate

9th – 10th Grade Category:
First Place: Leilani Pasol, Grade 10, Kauai High School
Second Place: Christopher Bouillon, Grade 9, Mililani High School
Third Place: Justin Doi, Grade 10, Kauai High School

11th – 12th Grade Category:
First Place: Shonn Hiranaga, Grade 11, Waiakea High School
Second Place: Kristan Jerald Daenos, Grade 11, Waipahu High School
Third Place: Lei Ann Manera, Grade 12, Kauai High School
First place students in each category will receive a new Apple iPad. Second place and third place winners will receive Dr. Dre High Performance Headphones and an Apple iPod Shuffle, respectively.

Grand prize winner Leilani Pasol, who is a rising junior at Kauai High School, will have her winning script professionally produced into a commercial to air on television and radio statewide.

“We want to congratulate all the students who participated in our contest,” said GEAR UP Hawai‘i Project Director Angela Jackson. “By taking the time to submit an entry, we know that these students are already on the right track in preparing themselves for their future.”

Media sponsors for the contest include: GEAR UP Hawai‘i, Oceanic Time Warner Cable, Clear Channel Hawai‘i, Napa Auto Parts, Leavitt Yamane and Soldner, and Hawaiian Tel Federal Credit Union.

ABOUT GEAR UP HAWAI‘I
GEAR UP Hawai‘i, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, is a federally funded program with the mission to significantly increase low-income students’ awareness of, preparedness for, and enrollment in postsecondary education. It is a critical program to assist in leading education reform efforts to help meet the state’s goal of 55% of working age adults holding a two- or four-year college degree by 2025. For more information, visit our website at www.gearuphawaii.edu.

ABOUT HAWAI‘I P-20 PARTNERSHIPS FOR EDUCATION
Hawai‘i P-20 Partnerships for Education, a statewide partnership led by the Early Learning Council, the Hawai‘i State Department of Education and the University of Hawai‘i System works to strengthen the education pipeline from early childhood through higher education so that all students achieve college and career success. Hawai‘i P-20’s partners share a sense of urgency about the need to improve Hawai‘i’s educational outcomes in an increasingly global economy, and have established a goal of 55 percent of Hawai‘i’s working age adults having a two- or four-year college degree by 2025. For more information, visit http://www.p20hawaii.org.

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