



## ANNOUNCING THE 2009 "MY HAWAI'I" STORY COMPETITION WINNERS

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Foundation, Hawai'i Conservation Alliance, and the Pacific Writers' Connection today announced the names of the 25 student authors whose submissions were selected for publication in the "My Hawai'i Story Project" 2009 Anthology. Students in grades six through eight across the state were invited to write a story, poem, or essay to reflect their thoughts and feelings about what makes Hawai'i's environment special to them. Now in its third year, this inspiring statewide outreach program touches the lives of students who are budding writers and want to share their stories and passion for the environment.

"It is important that our future leaders write about our Hawai'i environment to foster a sense of stewardship for these islands, and we are pleased to again partner with the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance for the third year of this creative writing competition," said Dr. Takiora Ingram, President of The Pacific Writers' Connection.

"Our natural environment is what defines Hawai'i," said Deanna Spooner, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Foundation. "For nearly two decades the Alliance has worked to promote the conservation of the Hawaiian Islands' unique native ecosystems. With the My Hawai'i Story Project, we are fostering environmental awareness in those who will be responsible for the future stewardship of the archipelago."

This year 380 students from 23 schools shared with us their thoughts and impressions about our state's natural splendors and the challenges we face in conserving them. The student's stories will be compiled into an anthology that will be distributed to all elementary and middle school libraries in the state.

The 25 students whose writings were selected for publication will be invited to attend an Awards Ceremony on July 30, when they will be presented with certificates of achievement and prizes.

For more information on the "My Hawai'i" Story Project, including a list of the winning entries, visit our website at <http://hawaiiconservation.org/myhawaii.asp>.



Pacific Writers Connection