

Star Advertiser

KEIKI DAY



**Parents And
Children Together**

BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT MATTER MOST

Coming together to raise funds for Hawaii's children, families

Today's \$1 edition helps
local nonprofit carry out
key services, programs

BY KYLE GALDEIRA
SPECIAL REPORT FOR KEIKI DAY

Since 1990, Keiki Day has become a highly anticipated — and extremely important — fundraising event, while also serving as a “friend-raising” opportunity that highlights the complicated issues facing families and youngsters in Hawaii.

While the funds generated through Keiki Day are vital for one of Hawaii's leading advocates for children, the awareness generated within the community through the annual event is priceless. The sales of this year's special Keiki Day edition of the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* directly benefit Parents And Children Together, a Hawaii-only family service agency established 50 years ago that assists more than 15,000 people on a yearly basis.

The one-day event is supported by some of Hawaii's notable personalities — including politicians, celebrities, athletes, coaches and business leaders — as well as more than 1,200 volunteers who donate their time to sell special editions of the newspaper for just \$1 apiece on Oahu, Kauai, Maui and Hawaii Island. Extra copies of the paper also are available in classrooms today across the Islands, thanks to the generosity of sponsors, individual donors, businesses and schools.

Parents And Children Together, a private nonprofit organization, strives to provide Hawaii's children with a peaceful and safe environment in which they can grow via 18 crucial programs. The fields represented through the organization are: early childhood education; domestic violence prevention and treatment; child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment; behavioral and mental health support; youth development; and economic and community development.

“One of the things we do is we have a comprehensive (approach) that involves working with families,” says Ben Naki, Parents And Children Together vice president of early education programs. “It's one thing for kids to learn basic classroom skills, but it's equally important to ensure families are supported, from mental and physical health care to nutritional values and addressing comprehensive issues. Family



(Clockwise, from top) Lauren Peralta, Daniel “Kupono” Dunaway, Cameron-James Samson, Alyse Glaser, Nisha Leandro and Tehya Lipman are among this year's Keiki Day contest winners who celebrated the theme “Together” in their artwork and essay submissions. **ANTHONY CONSILLIO PHOTO**

Celebrating 50 Years ... Together

“Together” is a powerful word. By working together, we become more efficient. By banding together, we become stronger. By sharing together, we show compassion and generosity toward one another.

There's so much we can accomplish if we come together as a neighborhood, as a community, as a state.

This year, Parents And Children Together celebrates 50 years of serving the people of Hawaii. Our work would not be possible without the ardent support of the service community, government agencies, the legislature, the private sector and community members like you. Together, we help 15,000 parents, children, individuals and families access much-needed social services and support every year.

This Keiki Day is a celebration of our 50-year journey and the work we've accomplished together. We're proud to present original artwork and stories from keiki all over the state, each sharing what the word “together” means to them.

We're also celebrating healthy relationships that bring people together — the bond between a child and his or her parent, grandparent, aunty or uncle, brother or sister, coach, godparent or teacher that provides guidance, safety and support. For 50 years, Parents And Children Together has worked to strengthen these important bonds with our educational, social service and community building programs.

Most of all, we'd like to thank you for standing with Parents And Children Together all these years, supporting our mission and sharing our vision of a peaceful, safe and vibrant Hawaii, where everyone has the opportunity to fulfill their dreams. With your support, we hope to continue serving Hawaii for the next 50 years and beyond.

Mahalo,

Ryan Kusumoto
President & CEO, Parents And Children Together



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Getting the party started

Hosted by repeat supporter Romano's Macaroni Grill, the Keiki Day kickoff launched Parents And Children Together's signature community awareness-raising event with a bang! Team representatives, who will be hawking Keiki Day special editions of the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* with more than 1,000 volunteers from all over Oahu today, gathered at Romano's Macaroni Grill to fuel up over a delicious brunch and get pepped up for the annual event.

Senior vice president of audience/operations for Oahu Publications Aaron Kotarek, joined Parents And Children Together's president & CEO Ryan Kusumoto and vice president of early education programs Ben Naki to rally the crowd and educate them on the finer points of selling.



(Above) Parents And Children Together representatives Tina Porras-Jones, Kim Gould, Mike Moses, Ryan Kusumoto and Margaret Takahashi drum up excitement for Keiki Day at Romano's Macaroni Grill. (Left) The kickoff event hits a high note with Alaka'i Chang's ukulele performance. **ANTHONY CONSILLIO PHOTOS**



Mahalo to this year's Parents And Children Together Keiki Day Sponsors

CREATIVITY CONTEST JUDGES

Shannon Carvalho, Daniel Dranove, Kehau Golis, Kim Gould, Cheryl Johnson, Dawn Kurisu, Ryan Kusumoto, Ani Menon, Ben Naki, Silvia Sharrar, Margaret Takahashi, Jimmy Tran

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Accounting, Inc.

... And our friends in the broadcast media
for their public service support.



Local organization marks golden anniversary

For Parents And Children Together, 2018 is a reminder of how much can change in 50 years. When it opened its doors as the Parent Child Center of Kalihi in 1968, the nonprofit never dreamed of expanding its reach beyond its humble beginnings in Kalihi.

With support from the community, federal funding and strategic partnerships at the state and local level, Parents And Children Together grew. It became a federal Head Start program in 1988, and has since continued to expand its programs and resources statewide.

Now 400 employees strong, with 18 programs helping 15,000 individuals every year, it's a far cry from the small center where it began.



Parents And Children Together

BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT MATTER MOST

A few things haven't changed. Parents And Children Together has always called Kalihi home. From its headquarters at Kuhio Park Terrace, Parents And Children Together provides a number of community-based resources that benefit area residents and neighborhood families directly, such as its flagship Head Start and Early Head Start programs, community teen center, family center and economic development center.

Parents And Children Together continues to live and serve by its values of: informed approach, high quality, holistic care, collaboration, respect and a focus on the future. Parents And Children Together doesn't simply provide resources to its clients. It offers access and support to families who are looking to improve their future.

Lastly, Parents And Children Together has always been driven by its mission to help Hawaii's most vulnerable keiki.

While the organization has since expanded to offer programs that focus on domestic abuse prevention and mental health support, each program is connected to the mission of creating safe and promising futures for Hawaii's children and families. There's truth in the old adage, "It takes a village to raise a family." At Parents And Children Together, community plays an important role in building and strengthening the relationships that matter most in a child's life.

Celebrating 50 years is an achievement for any organization. For one that has touched thousands of lives and offered Hawaii's vulnerable families a path forward, it's a testament to the strength and importance of community.

Programs provide support for the community

Parents And Children Together serves over 15,000 parents, children, individuals and families annually through its statewide programs in five areas of focus:

Early Childhood Education

- **Early Head Start and Head Start** provide early childhood education and support services for pre-qualified parents with children on Oahu and Hawaii Island. Early Head Start offers services to prenatal parents and infants from birth to three years. Head Start serves parents with children ages three to five years.

Domestic Abuse Prevention & Treatment

- **Family Peace Centers** teach non-violent problem solving skills while emphasizing partnership, equality and respect among families.
- **Family Visitation Centers** provide a safe environment for visitations with children and their non-custodial parents.
- **Ohia Domestic Violence Shelter** offers a safe and confidential facility for women and children who are victims of domestic violence.
- **Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Lehua Transition House** provides transitional housing for up to one year for women who are victims of domestic violence.
- **Trafficking Victim Assistance Program** offers comprehensive and victim-centered case management services for survivors of human trafficking.

Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention & Treatment

- **Hana Like Home Visiting Program** offers home visits on Oahu for parents with children from birth to three years residing in downtown Honolulu to Kalihi.
- **Hoomau Home Visiting Program** offers home visits for parents with children from birth to three years residing in Diamond Head, West Honolulu, Aiea, Pearl City and Windward areas of Oahu.
- **Ulupono Family Strengthening Program** offers family support services for parents with children from birth to 17 years on Oahu and Maui.



- **Lanai Integrated Support Services** provide programs for child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention through foster care and permanent placement on the island of Lanai.

Mental Health Support

- **Intensive Support Services Programs** are offered on Oahu, Maui and Kauai for families and youth with serious behavioral, social and emotional challenges.

Community Building and Economic Development

- **Mikiala Program** bridges the gap from homelessness to housing by conducting outreach at designated public parks to provide health screenings, learning activities and family mentoring.
- **Family Centers** provide family skill building and child abuse and neglect prevention services within Kuhio Park Terrace/Kuhio Homes and Kaneohe.
- **Economic Development Center** offers programs to strengthen an individual's ability to secure and keep employment.
- **Community Teen Centers** promote the development of healthy youth and families by providing educational, recreational, community building and support services.



For 50 years, Parents And Children Together has provided community-based services starting at The Towers at Kuhio Park, formally known as Kuhio Park Terrace, and growing into a multi-faceted organization serving our most vulnerable populations on Oahu, Kauai, Maui, Molokai, Lanai and Island of Hawaii.

If you are interested in learning more about Parents And Children Together, visit ParentsAndChildrenTogether.org or call us at (808) 847-3285.



- **Comprehensive Counseling and Support Services** offer comprehensive services for families involved in the Child Welfare System including supervised visitation.
- **Voluntary Case Management** promotes the safety and well-being of children by mitigating the risk of child abuse and neglect for families referred by Child Welfare Services.





It's hip hip, hooray for this year's Keiki Day winners, who are: (front row, from left) Riley Rees, Grace-Ann Kaai, Johan Kernstock, Lauren Peralta and Daniel "Kupono" Dunaway; (middle row) Alejah Callorina, Cameron-James Samson, Julian Barradas, Nisha Leandro, Tehya Lipman, Reese Jolly, Dana R. Dela Cruz and Mary Burke; (back row) Kamryn Jansen, Clara Ontal, Alyse Glaser, Prescilla Pascua, Vincent Nguyen, Aeryn Yamazaki, Marlena Brotchie, Kiara Flores, Cynthia Nguyen and Yuzuha Shibata. **ANTHONY CONSILLIO PHOTO**

Keiki: Lending a hand through 'friend-raising'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

advocates are part of the program and stay in touch with the families, so it's more than just dropping off and picking up keiki from school, including job placement skills and action plans."

Head Start and Early Head Start are among the early education programs Naki oversees. Head Start is focused on helping 3-to-5-year-old keiki and their families on Oahu and Hawaii Island prepare for kindergarten. Early Head Start helps infants and toddlers up to age 3 prepare for preschool opportunities, and includes classroom and home-visit components, while also facilitating areas for kids to play together as parents build support networks.

Additionally, Parents And Children Together has built an Early Head Start Child-care Partnership that contracts Kamaaina Kids to provide 10-hour, full-day childcare and educational services for working families and those going to school full-time.

"In the early childhood education field, we see more opportunities to partner with the Department of Education," says Naki. "Certainly if things go the way they are on track to, there will be more preschool classes on campuses, and it will be great to maximize the services available to build capacity so every child can go to school before kindergarten."

In addition to chronicling the day's



top news articles and features readers have come to rely on from the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, each Keiki Day edition contains information and tips for parents, teachers and children, as well as

the chance to celebrate the original stories, artwork and poetry from students who entered the Keiki Day Creativity Contest. Children from grades kindergarten-12 submitted responses related to this year's theme of "Together." From thousands of submissions, judges selected the entries that are displayed in this issue, following a tradition that began two decades ago with the *Honolulu Advertiser* and continues today via the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*. As part of the Keiki Day initiative, teachers use the newspapers and the corresponding information included in the Keiki Day insert as part of their daily lesson plan, while also recognizing the winners of the creativity contest.

"This year, our theme is 'Together,' and we continue to focus on building relationships that matter the most," says Ryan Kusumoto, president & CEO of Parents And Children Together. "The more we can invest in our keiki, the better our families and communities will be. This year's theme is about bringing together the community with our families to provide the services that they need."

"It's a model of working with them as opposed to for them. There's no cookie-cutter approach to serving the needs of our clients, and oftentimes, they know how to solve their problems."

Since its inception in 1968 as a single program based in Kalihi, Parents And Children Together has grown into a statewide organization that positively impacts the lives of countless families every year. It offers services on Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai and Hawaii Island, and features various facilities such as family centers, domestic violence shelters and transitional housing.

While Parents And Children Together receives funding from federal and state contracts as well as via generous donations from private gifts and grants, the funds raised through Keiki Day provide the organization with vital flexibility to address the needs of Hawaii's children.

"Keiki Day allows Parents And Children

(Left to right) Tehya Lipman, Daniel "Kupono" Dunaway, Alyse Glaser, Cameron-James Samson, Nisha Leandro and Lauren Peralta were awarded for their artwork at essay submissions to this year's Keiki Day Creativity Contest.

ANTHONY CONSILLIO PHOTO

Together's ohana-centered programming to continue, thanks, in part, to this highly anticipated annual fundraising drive," said Dennis Francis, president and publisher of Oahu's only daily newspaper. "That is why the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* is proud to serve as a longtime partner with such an important organization, and we remain committed to the families within our community."

Keiki Day represents the organization's largest fundraising opportunity of the year, and because the money is unrestricted — it is not earmarked for specific programs as many contracts and donations specify — Parents And Children Together is able fill in the gaps created by economic fluctuations and potential government funding delays.

"These early education programs are federally funded, but Keiki Day really helps us with crucial money to provide these services," says Naki, who has been a part of the organization since 2000. "The funding helps us sustain and gain flexibility without relying solely on government funding and grants. It also helps us get our name out there in the community, and a lot of people know us because of Keiki Day. It's a great way to get the word out about our programs."

Ultimately, the goal of Parents And Children Together is to establish and build strong and lasting relationships through its programs that will allow participants to find and follow a positive, productive path in life — and Keiki Day plays an integral role in ensuring the continuation of those programs.

"Keiki are our future and we need to find ways to support them so Hawaii continues to be a great place to live," Kusumoto says.



Honoring 50 years of service

Since 1968, Parents And Children Together has served as one of Hawaii's leading nonprofit organizations dedicated to providing a wide range of innovative and educational social services.

The organization's 50th anniversary in the Islands will be celebrated during today's Keiki Day fundraising efforts, and Parents And Children Together was also recognized for the tremendous work it does in the community by Gov. David Ige in an official proclamation presented on April 23 at the State Capitol.

It's been a part of our work since the beginning: Being engrained in the community is our "secret sauce" to how we do our work, and we wouldn't do it any other way," says Ryan Kusumoto, president & CEO of Parents And Children Together. "We've been working with communities and families to address the issues facing them today. "Over the next 50 years, we will continue to focus on the root causes of poverty and looking 'upstream' before they become bigger issues, we want to get ahead of these issues as an agency."



Parents And Children Together CEO Ryan Kusumoto receives a proclamation in recognition of the nonprofit's 50th anniversary from Gov. David Ige April 23.

ANTHONY CONSILLIO PHOTO

Introducing the Keiki Day Creativity Contest Winners

All across Oahu, students representing kindergarten through 12th grade have been working hard to express what this year's Keiki Day theme of "Together" means to them. From over 1,000 submissions, judges have chosen the following 25 essays, poems and artwork as winning depictions of the importance of sticking together. As you'll see here, they all deserve a round of applause.



PHOTOS BY ANTHONY CONSILLIO AND MARK GALACGAC

Grace-Ann Kadi **ARTIST**



**Kindergarten
WINNER**

SCHOOL Kanoelani Elementary

TEACHER Mrs. Andrade

WRITER **Lauren Peralta**



**First Grade
WINNER**

TOGETHER

Together is my favorite place in the whole wide world. Together is feeling safe and the most loved. Together is how I learn to be kind and understanding. Together we can care and help family and friends. Together is teamwork. Together is where I find my strength. Together is when we are all the strongest. Together is all being accepted with our uniqueness. Together

SCHOOL Mokapu Elementary, MCBH

TEACHER Mrs. Shay

Riley Rees

ARTIST



First Grade
WINNER

SCHOOL Mokapu Elementary, MCBH

TEACHER Miss Yoneshige

WRITER

Daniel "Kūpono" Dunaway



Second Grade
WINNER

Togetherness is fun, funny, scary all kinds of feeling but one thing that brings us together is harmony, peace because nothing can break harmony and peace it is not something you get it is something you earn.

SCHOOL Aliiolani Elementary

TEACHER Ms. Ho

Johan Kernstock

ARTIST



Second Grade
WINNER

SCHOOL Ala Wai Elementary

TEACHER Alison Fukuda



Third Grade
WINNER

WRITER

Tehya Lipman

TOGETHER LIKE A RAINBOW

Together is each color in a rainbow. In Hawaii, we come from all different cultures. There are people who have different skin colors. However, I've seen people come together and make a wonderful, beautiful rainbow. Just like in the old days, we can come together by talking stories.

People are often so busy looking at their phones. They text and do not talk in real life. Technology began to get popular, but people started getting into it and now they text all the time and barely ever look up from their phones to talk to anybody because they are addicted to their phones. Before you know it everyone is texting and not talking and listening to other people. I see people going on their phones when they are at the dinner table.

On the other hand, if we work together like each color in a rainbow we can make a difference. Imagine if we would all work together and make a difference upon the world. In the plantation times you earned your things. Talking stories, having a BBQ with friends and family, and just spending face to face time together. When me and my sister clean our room separately we fight but when me and my sister clean the same parts together we don't fight and it is much faster. We need to all help to make Hawaii a better place for the keiki today and tomorrow.

SCHOOL

Waialae Charter School

TEACHER

Mrs. Villanueva

Dana R. Dela Cruz

ARTIST



Third Grade
WINNER

SCHOOL

Kanoelani Elementary

TEACHER

Mrs. Wendy Nakayama

WRITER

Mary Burke

TOGETHER

Together with friends I shall always be.
No matter what, they will always need me.
Because nothing separates I from thee.
I'll always be there, we're like apples and seeds.
You and me we will always be.
Together, together is what I can see.



Fourth Grade
WINNER

SCHOOL

Sacred Hearts Academy

TEACHER

Lacey Teshima

Reese Jolly **ARTIST**



**Fourth Grade
WINNER**

SCHOOL Navy Hale Keiki School

TEACHER Ms. Kristine Quach

WRITER Nisha Leandro



**Fifth Grade
WINNER**



TOGETHER

I'll always be by your side
On this roller coaster called life
No matter how far or wide
Even if your world is in peril and strife

I will never give up on you
When you're with me, I can do anything
Our friendship is tried and true
We can take on what life brings

As our imaginations soar
As wide as the sky
We open a new door
Together we fly

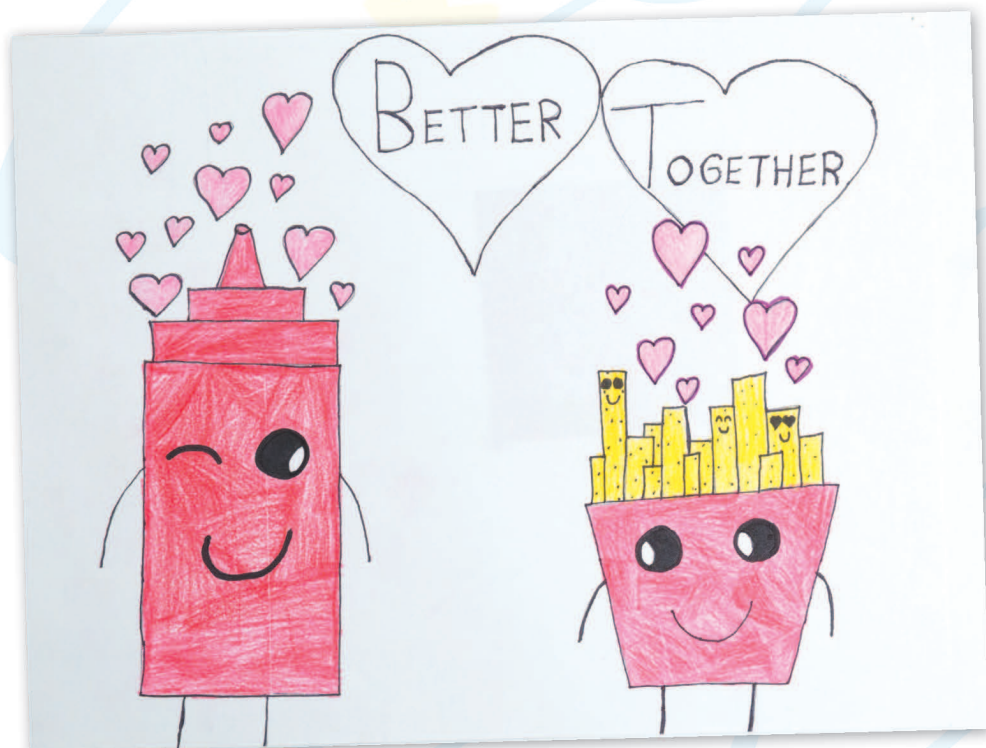
You make me proud
In any situation that applies
I think you're perfect in every way
Any problem, we do with pride

I'll always be by your side.

SCHOOL Kapunahala Elementary

TEACHER Mrs. Erin Furuya

Cameron-James Samson **ARTIST**



**Fifth Grade
WINNER**

SCHOOL Enchanted Lake Elementary

TEACHER Ms. Taradee



**Sixth Grade
WINNER**

WRITER

Julian Barradas

TOGETHER POEM

One brick alone can't do anything, but
many bricks together can build a tower
A lone wolf can't hunt alone but with
his pack they can easily hunt a deer
Just like how a garden is more
beautiful than a single flower
Working together as a team you can
see things so much more clear.

If you do things for society other
people will do things for you
It's just like how good karma happens
to you, it's very great
Even if you don't want to work as a
team try something new
It will help you accomplish more and
get out of that solo state.

Teamwork is essential and don't think
that being alone is better one bit
As long as you're together it is always
better than being alone
Even if you think that everyone but you
can fit
Take those thoughts out of your mind
and have yourself shown.

If you see someone struggling lend a
helping hand
Because together you can get so much
more done
That person will thank you so right now
help them stand
Be their strength and they'll help you out
a ton.

SCHOOL

Enchanted Lake Elementary

TEACHER

Ms. Teradee

Alejah Callorina

ARTIST



**Sixth Grade
WINNER**

SCHOOL

Kapolei Middle

TEACHER

Daryle Mishina

WRITER

Prescilla Pascua

TOGETHER

Being alone,
That definitely isn't fun.
Being alone,
Well we should find someone.

Someone that is helpful and energetic,
Not too energetic or else you'll get sick of it.
Someone that is funny and can make you laugh,
Who will make silly faces in photographs.

A friend is the word for that particular someone,
One who couldn't replace almost anyone.
Maybe you could be friends forever,
But the main point is that you are together.



**Seventh Grade
WINNER**

SCHOOL

**Our Lady of
Good Counsel School**

TEACHER

Mrs. Bautista

Yolene Tupai

ARTIST



Seventh Grade
WINNER

SCHOOL Ewa Makai Middle

TEACHER Nancy Hilson

WRITER

Clara Ontal



Eighth Grade
WINNER

“THE POWER OF UNITY”

Our voices unheard, blocked by ignorance.
Being silenced, force to wear a muzzle.
But we can protest for deliverance
If we are connected, like a puzzle.

We were divided, two separate groups
Always competing, yet had the same goal.
Compromise will end this repeated loop
And we will finally be as a whole.

United, we are able to stand up,
Since ignorance doesn't last forever.
When they won't listen, we'll raise our hands up
And we can achieve much more together.

SCHOOL Sacred Hearts Academy

TEACHER Melinda Smith

Kamryn Jansen

ARTIST



Eighth Grade
WINNER

SCHOOL Aliamanu Middle

TEACHER Mr. Uranti



**Ninth Grade
WINNER**

WRITER

Alyse Glaser

TOGETHER

Together is more
than a click of a button,
all the things you ignore
from the room you're walled up in,
or two screens connected
but so far away.
Can a "like" so expected
make somebody's day?

Together is more
than 400 followers on Instagram,
that account you adore,
or your live-streaming cam.
It's not being curled on your bed
with your iPhone and cat,
or the conversations you've read
and saved on Snapchat.

Together is being
with others, face to face,
all those moments unforeseen
that nothing can replace,
like themed birthday celebrations,
spontaneous jokes,
or heart-felt conversations
over ice cream and cokes.

Together is an outstretched hand,
like flowers enveloped by a vase,
a whispered, "I understand,"
a gentle embrace,
the promise to persevere,
to stay true,
a promise to be near
and to always be here for you.

SCHOOL

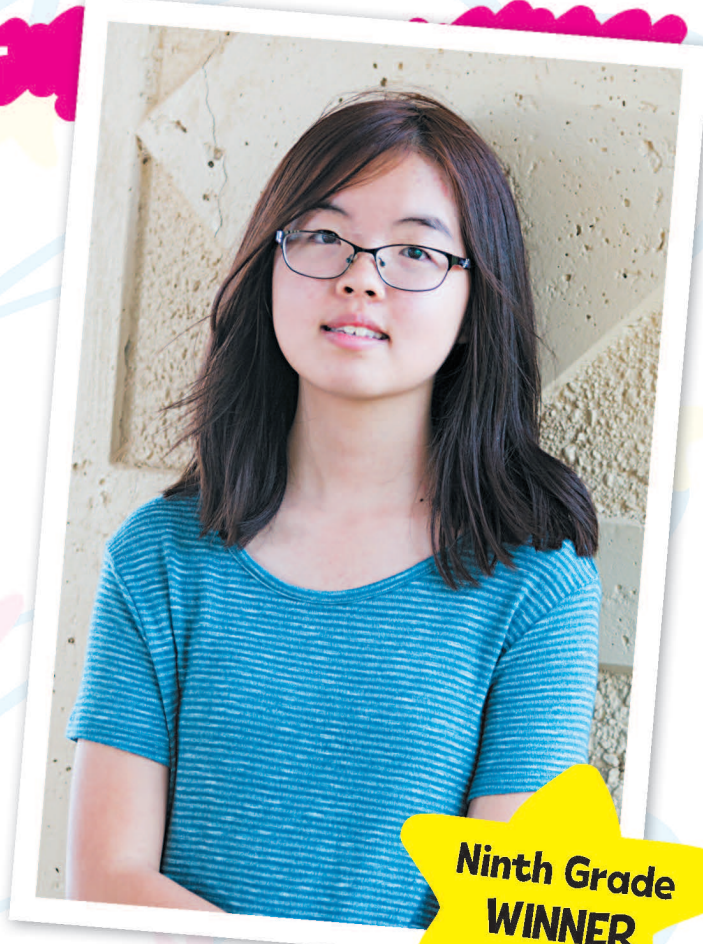
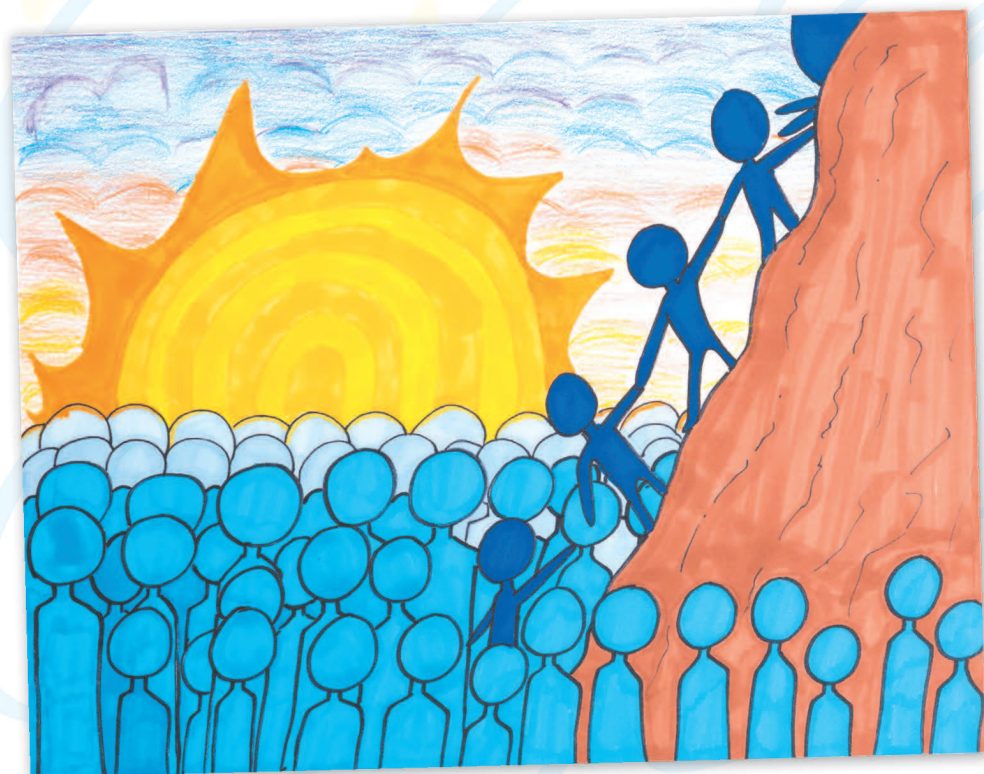
Sacred Hearts Academy

TEACHER

Ms. Jill Sprott

Aeryn Yamazaki

ARTIST



**Ninth Grade
WINNER**

SCHOOL

Mililani High School

TEACHER

Ms. Ravina-Koethe

WRITER

Cynthia Nguyen

"A SINGLE HEART"

A single sunflower
as tall and vibrant as it may be
will not bring tears to one's eyes
the way a meadow of a thousand will do
as they stand together in the face of hope
and light

A single droplet of rain
cannot do more than kiss the earth's
wounds
But a roaring river of a million drops
will trample over jagged edges and pave a
new path
to change the course of history

A single word
will be as harmless as a word may be
But when several are threaded together
they may become the single greatest
weapon known to Man

for their message might have the power
to change the course of history

A single voice
can be as loud and unwavering as one's voice
may be
But nothing compares to the united sound
of a seamless choir of voices
for the world will know that they have
something to say
to change the course of history

Because individually
we are but a single tear fallen from this
beaten Earth
But hand in hand
we are an ocean with a single beating heart
and we will stand together as we make history.

**Tenth Grade
WINNER**

SCHOOL

Sacred Hearts Academy

TEACHER

Chloe Smith

Kiara Flores

ARTIST

BETTER TOGETHER



Tenth Grade
WINNER

SCHOOL Sacred Hearts Academy

TEACHER Mr. Randall

WRITER

Isaiah Apilando-Balles

WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER

"Together"
Creates growth
in your family;
In life,
As a decent person.
Without growth, we are stuck,
Stuck in a hole...
Lost,
Alone,
Crying out for someone.

"Together"
Is not giving up on your parents,
Who are going through hard times.
It's praying for them,
Being strong for them.

"Together"
Is accepting pain,
Learning from it,
And creating change;
Change for the future.
It is having someone in your life
Who is going to be your foundation,
As God is the foundation for a blessed life.

"Together"
Is always accepting your love for who they are
And the challenges that comes with it.
To overcome,
To persevere,
To keep moving forward.
"Together"
Is to grieve over a love one who has moved on.

But not to dwell,
To be there for those who are hurting more than you.
Being the voice that speaks out for those who can't.
Being that light;
That inspiration.

"Together"
Are the choices we make,
And the consequences we live by.

Together...
We laugh.
We cry.
We smile.
We get angry.
We forgive.
We love.
Most of all,
We're together...
Heart,
Body,
And spirit.

Eleventh Grade
WINNER

SCHOOL Waianae High

TEACHER Ms. Mae Oshiro

Marlene Brotchie

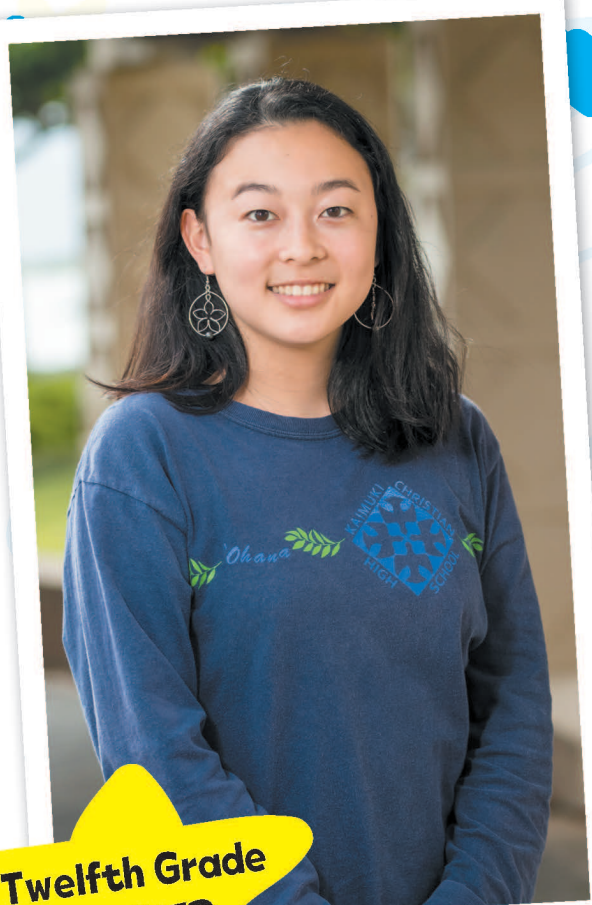
ARTIST



Eleventh Grade
WINNER

SCHOOL Mililani High

TEACHER Ruth Ravina-Koethe



WRITER

Yuzuha Shibata

FLYING AWAY

We let go,
Smiles illuminating our faces, we watch the balloons float away into the bright blue, cloudless sky.
The calm trade winds ruffle the leaves of palm trees towering over us,
And they whisk the balloons farther and farther away from us.
We stand close together, staring up at the mix of vibrant colors,
Separating, floating toward the future,
Fading from our vision to a place where hope for new opportunities lie.
Specks of red, blue, and yellow head to unknown destinations.

One may be floating to California,
Another to Canada,
The other perhaps to Washington.
All of us headed to different parts of the world,
We imagine what college will be like.

As she notes observations about astronomy at the Griffith Observatory,
She'll remember our nights spent lying on the soft sands of Makapu'u Beach, staring up at the brilliant stars.
As he conducts a biology lab in the snow-capped mountains of Langley, British Columbia,
He'll remember our long hikes through the lush green trees of Tantalus.
As she studies for her final examines in a trendy Seattle cafe,
She'll remember our laughs echoing through small Kaimuki coffee shops.

Memory keeps us together,
Even though we are in different parts of the world.
She wraps us in her embrace, unites us from across the globe, keeps us close,
In her warmth, we remember the shared tears, the laughter, the hardships.
The gap that opened within us when we left, she fills.
With her we once again cry together, laugh together, stay together.
And when we find a way back to our sunny, little island, back to each other,
It'll be as though we were always together.

Twelfth Grade
WINNER

SCHOOL

Kaimuki Christian School

TEACHER

JoAnna Fong

Vincent Nguyen

ARTIST



Twelfth Grade
WINNER

SCHOOL

Farrington High

TEACHER

Al Jon Tacata

