A Charged Up Weekend for Team 2853, Hot Spot Robotics

Our learning center students in the FIRST Robotics program have been working day and night (literally) since January to design, build, and test a robot to compete in the 2023 FIRST Robotics Challenge season game: Charged Up. Due to Hawaii’s unique geographic location, our regional tournament draws competing teams from several international locations, including Australia, Singapore, Taiwan, Indonesia, and Japan!

Over the course of three days, our team was busy working with and against other teams. The team’s pit crew (yes, much like a NASCAR pit crew) performed fast-paced maintenance to the robot in-between matches, in addition to scouting the capabilities and performance of other teams to develop game strategy.

Our team ranked 10th of 37 at the end of Qualification matches and became the 7th seed alliance captain for the playoffs, selecting Team 3881 (West Hawaii Explorations Academy) and Team 4817 (Singapore), as our alliance partners for the double elimination format. Unfortunately, the alliance had to effectively play 2-on-3 for both playoff losses when a robot stopped working mid-match. Despite all of that, our students had a blast in getting to meet and work with so many like-minded peers!

A special thank you goes out to the mentors who devoted a great deal of their time to guide, teach, and assist our students in their endeavors this competition season: Kelsey Koshi (Heide & Cook, MHS Alumnus), Timothy Lin (National Security Agency).

Scan (or click) the QR code to learn more about Tow Mayter!

Meet Team 2853's robot, Tow Mayter!
A BIG MAHALO TO OUR SPONSORS THIS SEASON!
Continuing a legacy - 2023 Mililani Science Olympiad Invitational Tournament

The 2023 Mililani Science Olympiad Invitational, held on Saturday March 11th, continued the tradition of Mililani High School, under the coordination of the Science Learning Center, hosting an open-invitational Science Olympiad competition. Our school has run this competition since 2005 in a nearly unbroken streak - not even the pandemic stopped us from hosting it in 2021! *(albeit, virtually)*

Our invitational hosted a grand total of 37 events across two competition divisions, for both Middle and High school competitors. These events ranged from knowledge based tests in areas such as Human Anatomy and Physiology to the demonstration/evaluation of a custom instrument designed to play a specific scale of musical notes. It's been estimated that close to 200 students participated in the tournament.

While our school and Science Olympiad team played host to the competition, we also found great success as competitors! Our students placed in a variety of events, earning themselves medals and bragging rights among the competing teams.

Despite this competition being planned and funded by the MHS Science Learning Center, it's success was only possible with significant assistance from various Mililani educators and alumni, as well as coaches and volunteers from the following schools:

- Jeremy Garo (tournament co-coordinator) - Mililani High
- Jeffrey Kong, Namthip Sitachitta, Michelle Herklotz- dela Rosa (event supervisors) - Mililani High
- Lynn Yoshioka (tournament co-coordinator) - Mililani Middle *(retired)*
- Iolani School
- Pearl City High School & Highlands Intermediate
- Waipahu High School

**We had a grand total of 11 schools visit our campus to compete in the invitational - both public and private!**

- Mililani High School (host)
- Mililani Middle School (co-host)
- Iolani School
- Highlands Intermediate
- Pearl City High School
- Waipahu High School
- University Laboratory School
- Hawaii Technology Academy
- James Campbell High School
- Punahou School
- Hanalani School

To learn more about Science Olympiad, click on our team logo!
April 1st might be April Fool's Day, but it was no joke for our Science Olympiad students who competed in the 2023 Hawaii State Science Olympiad hosted at UH Manoa. This competition marks the apex of the Science Olympiad competition in Hawaii, with competing High School teams in our division fighting for 1st place in order to be qualified to compete in the National Science Olympiad Tournament at Wichita State University.

Our team of 15 students competed against schools from across the state in 23 different STEM-focused competition events, exhibiting all of the hard-work and preparation they have been doing all school year. For many of the seniors on our team, this was their last year of competition in Science Olympiad - but through their leadership and combined efforts our entire team was able to place 3rd overall in the tournament!

Of note, we had the following students place in the following events:

- **1st** in Agricultural Science - Aiden Tansey (11) & Donovan Tansey (9)
- **2nd** in Astronomy - Taylor Omine (12) & Lauren Omine (9)
- **2nd** in Chemistry Lab - Michael Roberts (11) & Kenneth Yi (11)
- **2nd** in Environmental Chemistry - Michael Roberts (11) & Kenneth Yi (11)
- **2nd** in Cell Biology - Kelsie Yukumoto (12) & Kamryn Lapinid (12)
- **3rd** in Detector Building - Anne Malig (12) & Taylor Omine (12)
- **3rd** in Fermi Questions - Anne Malig (12) & Colbren Fujimoto (12)
- **2nd** in Flight - Tony Tsou (9) & Jonas Chan (11)
- **2nd** in Forensics - Kamryn Lapinid (12) & Naia Tamashiro (12)
- **2nd** in Forestry - Leesa Takara (10) & Anne Malig (12)
- **3rd** in Green Generation - Colbren Fujimoto (12) & Mariko Yonemura (10)
- **2nd** in WiFi Lab - Colbren Fujimoto (12) & Anne Malig (12)
- **3rd** in Write It Do It - Taylor Omine (12) & Lauren Omine (9)

Of note, we had the following students place in the following events:

- **1st** in Agricultural Science - Aiden Tansey (11) & Donovan Tansey (9)
- **2nd** in Astronomy - Taylor Omine (12) & Lauren Omine (9)
- **2nd** in Chemistry Lab - Michael Roberts (11) & Kenneth Yi (11)
- **2nd** in Environmental Chemistry - Michael Roberts (11) & Kenneth Yi (11)
- **2nd** in Cell Biology - Kelsie Yukumoto (12) & Kamryn Lapinid (12)
- **3rd** in Detector Building - Anne Malig (12) & Taylor Omine (12)
- **3rd** in Fermi Questions - Anne Malig (12) & Colbren Fujimoto (12)
- **2nd** in Flight - Tony Tsou (9) & Jonas Chan (11)
- **2nd** in Forensics - Kamryn Lapinid (12) & Naia Tamashiro (12)
- **2nd** in Forestry - Leesa Takara (10) & Anne Malig (12)
- **3rd** in Green Generation - Colbren Fujimoto (12) & Mariko Yonemura (10)
- **2nd** in WiFi Lab - Colbren Fujimoto (12) & Anne Malig (12)
- **3rd** in Write It Do It - Taylor Omine (12) & Lauren Omine (9)

STEM Share - MORE FREE Online Courses?!
edx, founded by professors and scientists from MIT and Harvard, is an open-source online platform that provides online collegiate courses in a variety of STEM subjects to the public at large - with many courses offered for free! It’s a fantastic way to continue one’s education in a discipline or to “try on” a college course to see if it’s a the right fit.

For more, please see or contact SLC Coordinators:
Mr. Tyson Kikugawa (C105) tyson.kikugawa.k12.hi.us - Mr. John Sandvig (B212) john.sandvig@k12.hi.us