



**Contact: Christine Brammer**  
(808) 224-6444

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 20, 2012

### **Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Announces 2012 Humpback Whale Month Ocean Contest Winners**

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary has announced the winners of the 2012 Humpback Whale Month Ocean Contest held during February and March. Students in kindergarten through eighth grade from around the globe were invited to express their insights, observations and understanding of the marine environment through the creation of original artworks, poems and short stories.

Approximately 300 entries were submitted and evaluated by judges who work in marine conservation. All entrants became members of the Ocean Guardian Kids Club and received an ocean education packet.

***The winners by category are:***

**Art – Kindergarten to Grade 2**

- 1st: Connor Reid, Gabriola Elementary, British Columbia
- 2nd: Joshua Dabashi, Island School, Kaua'i
- 3rd: Skyy Sekimoto, Nuuanu Elementary, O'ahu
- 4th: Franchesca Marie Matahum, St Anthony School, O'ahu
- 5th: Kyle Ching, Iolani School, O'ahu

**Art - Grade 3 to Grade 4**

- 1st: Lauren Ishikawa, Iolani School, O'ahu
- 2nd: Eunbi Choi, Saipan International, Saipan
- 3rd: Kayley Dombriones, Hanalei Elementary, Kaua'i
- 4th: Chloe Okimura, Iolani School, O'ahu
- 5th: Zoe Omura, Iolani School, O'ahu

**Art - Grade 5 to Grade 8**

- 1st: Sienna Namohala, Kapolei Middle, O'ahu **AND** Klaryssa Kado, Kapolei Middle, O'ahu
- 2nd: Malie Fox, St John Vianney, O'ahu
- 3rd: Yoa RaSung, Iolani School, O'ahu
- 4th: Kyra Tan, Iolani School, O'ahu
- 5th: Jake Flores, Kipp Coastal Village Middle, Texas

**Poetry – Kindergarten to Grade 4:**

- 1st: Kiani Akina, Kahuku Elementary, O'ahu
- 2nd: Keau Kamakeeaina, Kahuku Elementary, O'ahu
- 3rd: Maybelle Veras, Kahuku Elementary, O'ahu
- 4th: Raena Tzotzos, Self Design, British Columbia
- 5th: Anuheia Anderson, Kahuku Elementary, O'ahu

**Poetry - Grade 5 to Grade 8**

1st: Sam Hohenshell, Highview Middle School, MN, **AND** Pomai Tollenfsen, Kahuku Elementary, O'ahu

2nd: Yang Zhao, Punahou School, O'ahu

3rd: Nathan Hohenshell, Valentine Hills Elementary, MN

4th: Cameron Pagador, Kahuku Elementary, O'ahu

5th: Kawika Akina, Kahuku Elementary, O'ahu

**Short story – Kindergarten to Grade 8**

1st: Ikaika C.V.A. Crookes, Homeschooled, O'ahu

2nd: Cassie Kamai, St. John Vianney, O'ahu

3rd: Kira Prescott, Kipapa Elementary, Hawai'i

**Winning entries can be viewed online at <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>.**

The sanctuary is administered by a partnership of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources. The sanctuary works to protect humpback whales through research, education, conservation and stewardship. Join us on [Facebook](#).

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our other [social media channels](#).

The DLNR's mission is to enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of visitors and the people of Hawaii nei in partnership with others from the public and private sectors. Visit <http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/> or join us on [Facebook](#).

**On the Web:**

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary:

<http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>