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**Island Pacific  
Academy**

## **Island Pacific Academy Fourth Graders Win \$10,000 Prize in National Disney Contest for Volunteerism**

Disney Adventures All-Stars Program picks Hawaii School as 2007 winner for creative community service

**Kapolei, HI, May 23, 2007:** The Fourth Graders at Island Pacific Academy (IPA) started out last fall with small, simple ideas and acts to help Hawaii's environment. This spring their efforts have been recognized and rewarded in a big way. They are the winners of a national contest sponsored by *Disney Adventures* magazine promoting youth volunteerism.

On June 4, Island Pacific Academy will receive \$10,000 -- \$5,000 for the school and another \$5,000 to award to a nonprofit organization of its choice. Over 2,000 entrants nationwide applied, but the IPA project stood out. Debbie Way, one of the magazine's editors, says "We loved that the Island Pacific Academy students came up with a project that worked on two solutions at once: Increasing recycling and reducing the feral cat population." The students will appear in an upcoming issue of the *Disney Adventures* magazine.

The students' fourth grade teachers emphasized that the project is about **Malama Ka Aina** -- cherishing the land, an important Hawaiian value. The kids demonstrate Malama Ka Aina by:

1. **Recycling** lunch cans and bottles. Each weekend, the students and their families collect 5-cent bottles and cans around the school to recycle. The children to date have earned approximately \$350 (7,000 cans/bottles).
2. The students have chosen to make a difference and donate the recycle money to a non-profit organization **Malama Popoki** ("for the love of cats"), to help with the man-created problem of cat overpopulation on this island. Malama Popoki's mission is to "trap, spay/neuter, release, and manage" feral and stray cat colonies on Oahu.
3. Students also cherish the land by volunteering at the **Waimea Valley Audubon Park**, to help keep native/endangered plants growing. On a monthly basis, they weed, replant, propagate, and mulch. Waimea Valley is considered sacred ground by Hawaiians -- Ali'i are buried in caves there. It is a sanctuary for endangered plants and animals.
4. The students demonstrate Malama Ka Aina by helping the **school gardener**," Mr. Rich."