

2012 Eddie Aikau Essay Contest



About Eddie Aikau

“EDDIE WOULD GO” These few words have carried the story of Eddie Aikau around the world. Eddie Aikau was a humble and quiet person. The saying, “*Actions speak louder than words*” is very much a part of his story.

Eddie was one of the greatest Hawaiian surfers who ever lived... a man who rode mountains. Some say that Eddie Aikau showed great courage to ride extremely big waves. But Eddie's character and how he lived showed that he surfed with a passion possessed by only a select group of professional athletes—those who become one with the ocean and an extension of its power. He surrounded himself with the ocean and simply enjoyed the challenges it offered. For Eddie, the ocean was a spiritual place and he would meet its challenges with the utmost respect.

His skills as a big wave surfer and his love of the ocean gave him the determination to become one of the first City and County lifeguards on the North Shore of Oahu. Eddie became the guardian of Waimea Bay where he had surfed some of the biggest waves in the world. He took on the responsibility, not only of helping to make the beaches safer, but of willingly sharing his knowledge of the ocean with visitors to Hawaii so they could enjoy the beautiful beaches and go home safely to their family and friends. Eddie understood the importance of being trained and ready to make a rescue at any time. He had to communicate and cooperate with many people who helped during these rescues. When the ocean threatened the life of anyone near him and whether he was on duty or not, Eddie would risk his life without hesitation to save someone in danger. He saved the lives of people he never knew and always showed compassion. In 1971,

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he was awarded the highest honor as the Honolulu City & County Lifeguard of the Year. Eddie's heroics as a lifeguard became legendary and proved even then that "Eddie Would Go".

But foremost in Eddie's heart was his family. He loved his "*Ohana*" and upheld the Aikau family name with integrity and honor. The values that he was taught by his mother and father were evident in everything he did. He was very proud of his Hawaiian heritage, preserving his ancestry and culture was very important to him.

One of Eddie's biggest dreams was to sail on the *Hokule`a*, an 8 ton, 62 feet-long, double-hulled Polynesian voyaging canoe. To Eddie, the *Hokule`a* was a true symbol of the past and the future — the heart and the soul of Hawaii. Eddie had always been a surfer, never a sailor, but he was dedicated to becoming a member of its crew. The same passion and determination that had helped him in the past made it possible to achieve his dream, and he was selected to be a crew member for the 1978 voyage to Tahiti.

However on March 16, 1978, the *Hokule`a* capsized in bad weather. After many hours spent clinging to the overturned canoe in the stormy seas, it seemed that no one would be rescued. It was only natural that Eddie would offer to go for help. So Eddie went! He paddled away on his surfboard, but was never seen again. The rest of the crew was rescued soon after. It is Eddie's spirit filling the sails of the *Hokule`a* today as he guides her every voyage.

Eddie Aikau was a legendary big wave surfer, a heroic lifeguard and he made the ultimate sacrifice for his fellow crew members on the 1978 voyage of the *Hokule`a*. His legacy is not to live solely for yourself, but to help each other and to be of service. He was truly the embodiment of the Aloha Spirit.

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About the Essay Contest

- **Eligibility** - The Eddie Aikau Essay contest is open to all students in grade levels **7, 8, 9**, and **10** who are currently enrolled in public or private schools in Hawaii.
- This year's writing prompt is:

As a City and County lifeguard, Eddie Aikau often risked his life to make sure the beaches were safe for everyone. He made the ultimate sacrifice by giving his life in an attempt to save the crew on the Polynesian voyaging canoe "Hokule'a".

Eddie's actions reflected the Hawaiian values of **KOKUA (to help)** and **KAHIAU (to give generously with the heart, without expecting anything in return)**.

How do these values inspire your actions and how do they influence your decision of who to help, when you can't help everyone. Provide supporting examples or evidence.

- Contest applications for eligible students will be made available through the schools and also through **The Eddie Aikau Foundation** website at www.eddieaikaufoundation.org
- Students must have their application **signed by a teacher** and **signed by a parent or legal guardian** before mailing them in with their completed essay. Students must provide email addresses and phone numbers for their parent or legal guardian, and also the teacher on the application.
- Essays may be submitted in **English or Hawaiian** language.

ENGLISH DIVISION

- All properly completed applications and essays that are **POSTMARKED** on or before **January 24, 2012** will be accepted from eligible students in each grade level (7, 8, 9 & 10). Essays for **each grade level** will be judged **separately**.

HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE DIVISION

- The Hawaiian language division is open to all eligible students in each grade level (7, 8, 9 & 10). All properly completed applications and essays that are **POSTMARKED** on or before **January 24, 2012** will be accepted. Essays from **all 4 grade levels** in the Hawaiian language division will be **combined** for judging.

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Essay Requirements

- The essay must be the student's OWN work.
- The essay should have a TITLE that captures the idea of the essay.
- The essay must NOT reveal the Student's Name or School anywhere on, or within the essay.
- The essay should be a MAXIMUM of 1000 words in length.
- The essay must be *typewritten, double-spaced*, and in **12 point font** size.
- Two (2) hard copies of the essay must be submitted. The essay must also be available as an MS Word document.
- The essay answers the following:

As a City and County lifeguard, Eddie Aikau often risked his life to make sure the beaches were safe for everyone. He made the ultimate sacrifice by giving his life in an attempt to save the crew on the Polynesian voyaging canoe "Hokule'a".

Eddie's actions reflected the Hawaiian values of KOKUA (*to help*) and KAHIAU (*to give generously with the heart, without expecting anything in return*).

How do these values inspire your actions and how do they influence your decision of who to help, when you can't help everyone. Provide supporting examples or evidence.

How the Contest is Run

- Teachers will receive an **email Confirmation** of the students' acceptance in the essay contest after their completed Application and Essay are received.
- All essays & applications which meet the contest requirements **and** are properly received by the **January 24, 2012** deadline will be eligible for judging in either the English **or** Hawaiian language divisions.
- Awards in the **English** Division will include: First, Second, Third places and two (2) Honorable-mention awards for **each** grade level (7, 8, 9 & 10).
- Awards in the **Hawaiian** Language Division will include: First, Second, Third places and two (2) Honorable-mention awards for the **overall** division... 7, 8, 9 & 10th grade levels **combined**.
- **CASH** prizes will be awarded to the winners in the English Division and the Hawaiian Language Division as follows: First place **\$500**, Second place **\$350**, Third place **\$250**, and **\$100** for each of the two (2) Honorable-mention winners.
- If the number of completed essays received is exceptionally low, the **Eddie Aikau Foundation** Board of Directors reserves the right to make reasonable adjustments in the awards given.

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Judging Criteria

I. ESSAY CONTENT (70 Points)

- Meaning (50 pts)
Insight and understanding behind the words;
There is a point to the writing, you create something worth reading.
- Voice (20 pts)
The imprint of the writer;
The reader of your essay has a sense of the writer behind the words; writing shows conviction and caring, and engages the reader.
 - The tone and the message are positive and reflect Eddie's values.
 - The essay cites examples from Eddie's life that influence the writer's values and actions today.
 - The essay reveals something special about the writer's understanding of the Hawaiian values of **KOKUA (to help)** and **KAHIAU (to give generously with the heart, without expecting anything in return)**.

II. PRESENTATION (20 Points)

- Clarity (10 pts)
Word choice, language, and sentence structure clearly convey the intended meaning.
- Design (10 pts)
Form and structure give the writing coherence and move the reader through the essay.
 - The essay is well organized and clearly written.
 - The writing is interrelated, cohesive and proportionate.
 - The writing gives the reader a complete message.
 - The writer's views are clearly stated.
 - The language is precise, vivid, clear and has meaning and purpose.

III. WRITING SKILL (10 Points)

- The essay shows a grasp of standard writing skills of grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and paragraphing.

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Timeline

Beginning of November, 2011

Public, Private & Charter Schools notified.

Applications and information packets available online at
www.eddieaikaufoundation.org

November 20, 2011 (Sunday) 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Macy's Store- Ala Moana Center – Lower Level

Myra, Solomon & Clyde Aikau will be autographing the new Posters for the *2011-12 Quiksilver Big Wave Invitational In Memory of Eddie Aikau*, along with some of the invited surfing contestants. (*Posters are FREE, while supplies last*)

December 1, 2011 to February 29, 2012

Holding period for the 27th Anniversary of the *Quiksilver Big Wave Invitational In Memory of Eddie Aikau*, which will take place at Waimea Bay on the Northshore of Oahu if the waves reach the required 20 foot minimum wave height. For more event information go to: www.quiksilver.com/bigwave
- [Opening Ceremonies to be held on Thursday Dec 1st at Waimea Bay.](#)

Date To be Announced- check website

Documentary on *“Eddie Aikau, Hawaiian Hero”* will be rebroadcast on KGMB –Channel 9 TV.

January 24, 2012 (Tuesday)

Postmark deadline for completed ESSAYS which must include a signed Student Application to be accepted for judging.

February 18, 2012 (Saturday)

Judging session for all essays submitted by the deadline date that meet the eligibility requirements.

Week of February 19 - 25, 2012

All contest winners contacted and names posted on the Foundation website.

March 6, 2012 (Tuesday)

If required, return signed Student Permission forms to the teachers, to authorize attendance at the awards ceremonies.

March 10, 2012 (Friday)

Names of Contest winner to be given to media resources.

March 17, 2012 (Saturday)

Essay Awards ceremony takes place in Honolulu

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Contact Information

For questions and information,
or to arrange for the Aikau Family to visit your school,
please contact:

The Eddie Aikau Foundation

email: info@eddieaikaufoundation.org

Mail “signed” & completed Student Applications and Essays to:

The Eddie Aikau Foundation
352 Auwaiolimu Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

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STUDENT APPLICATION

Please PRINT clearly and complete ALL information requested.

Student's Name _____ Age ____ Grade _____

School _____ Teacher's Name _____

Teacher's Signature: _____ **(required)**

Teacher's Email Address _____

School or Teacher's Phone Number _____

NAME of Student's Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s)

Parent's / Guardian's Email or Phone _____

Student's Email or Mailing Address _____ Student- MALE FEMALE
(circle one)

Student's (Adult) T-Shirt size: **S / M / L / XL / 2XL** (circle one)

By signing below, you and your parent or legal guardian give permission to the Eddie Aikau Foundation, the Hawaii DOE, and the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools to do the following: (1) use your name, your biographical information (other than mailing address), and your essay in their discretion in any lawful manner for non-commercial purposes, educational purposes, and promotional purposes associated with the Eddie Aikau Essay Contest (collectively, the "Permitted Purposes"); (2) reproduce your essay, along with your name and biographical information (other than mailing address), in any format, including but not limited to printed materials and digital and on-line formats such as the Internet, for the Permitted Purposes; (3) distribute your essay to third parties for the Permitted Purposes; and (4) if you are a contest winner, record and use your likeness, whether captured by means of a photograph, video recording, or another method, and voice, whether captured by means of audio recording or another method, for the Permitted Purposes in any format, including but not limited to printed materials and digital and on-line formats such as the Internet.

Student's Signature: _____ **(required)**

Parent or legal Guardian's signature: _____ **(required)**

MAIL THIS APPLICATION FORM **(along with completed Essay)** ON OR BEFORE: **JANUARY 24, 2012** (postmark deadline)

TO:

**The Eddie Aikau Foundation
352 Auwaiolimu Street
Honolulu, HI 96813**

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FOR THE STUDENT: TIPS AND REMINDERS FOR WRITING YOUR ESSAY

Before you write, do some research. Possible resources include:

- Read the book, “Eddie Would Go” by Stuart Coleman (available in State of Hawaii public libraries).
- View the documentary, “Eddie Aikau Hawaiian Hero” to be rebroadcast on KGMB 9 TV, **(the date to be announced on the Foundation website).**
- Search the internet e.g., newspaper articles in *The Honolulu Star Advertiser*, various other magazines and media resources.
- Talk with someone who knew Eddie Aikau. The Aikau family is willing to visit the schools and speak with interested students about Eddie’s life. Teachers may email them at: info@eddieaikaufoundation.org to make the arrangements.
- Visit the Eddie Aikau Foundation website: www.eddieaikaufoundation.org
- Visit the Polynesian Voyaging Society website: <http://pvs.kcc.hawaii.edu/> Look under the heading- **Voyages**.
- Visit the Quiksilver website and learn about the history of the Big Wave Invitational In Memory of Eddie Aikau. www.quiksilver.com/bigwave

When you write:

- Introduce yourself and your thoughts to the reader. Use an appropriate title that states your point of view to be expressed in the essay.
- Create an original piece of writing that takes the reader from your title, to the introduction, through the body of your essay, and finally to the conclusion, in a clear, concise manner.
- Develop a topic you can focus on which will deliver your ideas to the reader clearly and convincingly.
- Finish your essay well ahead of time so you can take a day or two to read it again for a final review. Read it aloud to yourself and decide if changes or corrections are needed.

Check that you’ve met all of the contest requirements:

- The essay must be the student’s OWN work.
- The essay should have a TITLE that captures the idea of the essay.
- The essay must NOT reveal the Student’s Name or School anywhere on, or within the essay.
- The essay should be a MAXIMUM of 1000 words in length.
- The essay must be **typewritten, double-spaced**, and in **12 point font** size.
- Two (2) hard copies of the essay must be submitted. The essay must also be available as an MS Word document.
- The essay answers the following:
As a City and County lifeguard, Eddie Aikau often risked his life to make sure the beaches were safe for everyone. He made the ultimate sacrifice by giving his life in an attempt to save the crew on the Polynesian voyaging canoe “Hokule’a”.
Eddie’s actions reflected the Hawaiian values of KOKUA (to help) and KAHIAU (to give generously with the heart, without expecting anything in return).
How do these values inspire your actions and how do they influence your decision of who to help, when you can’t help everyone. Provide supporting examples or evidence.

Mail the signed Student Application and 2 hard copies of the completed Essay on, or before, **Tuesday January 24, 2012 (postmark deadline).**