

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Samantha Birch, (808) 887-6411, sbirch@kohalacenter.org

The Kohala Center offers scholarships for environmental leadership summer program

KAMUELA, Hawai'i—March 12, 2008—The Kohala Center invites Island high school students who are interested in biology, geology, and environmental science and policy to apply for generous scholarships to the Brown University Environmental Leadership Lab (BELL) in Rhode Island this summer.

“The Kohala Center is pleased to work with Brown University, so that promising Island high school students can experience science as a form of service to society,” said Matt Hamabata, executive director of The Kohala Center.

This select national leadership program (BELL) for high school students integrates leadership skill development with outstanding opportunities to study sustainable development through the lens of several academic disciplines, including biology, geology and environmental science and policy.

At BELL, students learn by doing—whether trawling for marine organisms on a 45-foot research vessel, participating in the design and construction of a sustainable engineering project or practicing steps they can take to make a positive difference in their home communities.

Students will live with others from around the country on Brown's Haffenreffer estate, a 372-acre historic farm property adjacent to the Narragansett Bay. Participants will take a hands-on approach to evaluating human impacts on the Narragansett Bay watershed, which is among the most diverse and biologically productive ecosystems on earth.

Scholarships are available for the following sessions:

- BELL Sustainable Development, June 29–July 11
- BELL Sustainable Development, July 13–July 25
- BELL Field Ecology, July 27–August 8

Financial assistance for travel is also available.

-More-

The deadline for all applications is April 9. For more information about the program: http://brown.edu/Administration/Continuing_Studies/pc/leadership/bell.php. Download application materials from The Kohala Center website, <http://www.kohalacenter.org>, or call The Kohala Center at 887-6411 to request application materials.

Recipients of the 2007 BELL scholarships were Scott Farmer, Kealakehe High School; Halena Kapuni-Reynolds, Ke Ana La'ahana Public Charter School; Mali'o Kodis, Waiakea High School; and Kanoe Phillips, Parker School.

Brown also partners with The Kohala Center to offer scholarships to BELL-Hawai'i, a competitive program on the island for exceptionally motivated pre-college students with interests in science, leadership, and cultural studies.

Recipients of this year's BELL-Hawai'i scholarships are Faith Ozer of St. Joseph High School in Hilo and Olympia Zampathas of Honakaa High School. Ozer and Zampathas will spend a week in April studying the ecological and social systems of the Island and learning about the Island's biological, ecological and cultural diversity. The course is based on a core curriculum of volcanology, marine science, and Island culture.

Ozer and Zampathas will learn about geology in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, assist with the restoration of native forest at Ni'aulani Gardens in Volcano and Ka'upulehu Dry Forest, sea kayak and snorkel in Kealakekua Bay, explore Pu'uhonua o Honaunau National Historic Park and study Hawaiian coral reef ecology.

The Kohala Center links together a diverse network of researchers, teachers, and students from Island-based institutions, as well as from institutions based on the U.S. Mainland and abroad. The Kohala Center is committed to helping Hawai'i Island residents preserve and enhance the intellectual, cultural, and natural assets of the Island. The BELL-Hawai'i program opens students' eyes to the complex relationships in the natural and social worlds of the island. Scholarships to these programs are funded, in part, through generous donations to The Kohala Center.

"We value our partnership with The Kohala Center. We share a vision for helping students develop the skills and attitudes they need to create responsible and well-informed relationships with the environment. What better place to do this but in Hawai'i, the world's most vibrant living classroom," said Robin Rose, associate dean and director of leadership programs at Brown.