

# Pacific Alliance

*To significantly increase the participation of Individuals with Disabilities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in postsecondary education programs and the STEM workforce in Hawai'i.*

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# Pacific Alliance Newsletter

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## About Pacific Alliance

The Pacific Alliance for Supporting Individuals with Disabilities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Fields Partnership is dedicated to providing opportunities that will improve students' grades, college experiences, and progression toward the completion of STEM degree programs and employment.

As of September 30, 2011, 45 high school students and 28 postsecondary students are participating in Pacific Alliance, a project supported by the National Science Foundation. Since September Pacific Alliance staff have been sharing the project with O'ahu public high schools and the project has expanded to include Kapi'olani Community College, Leeward Community College and the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu. We look forward to working with more students and partners in the coming year.

The key to our success is Pacific Alliance's three Communities of Practice, which are located at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu Community College, and Windward Community College. We are also grateful for the contributions of the Pacific Alliance Advisory Board and other partners who support this project. Mahalo nui loa!

Please visit the Pacific Alliance website for up-to-date information on upcoming events, opportunities for students, and resources for potential participants and partners--<http://www.cds.hawaii.edu/pacificalliance>.

## Upcoming Events

Pacific Alliance High School Winter Institute 2012  
Saturday, January 14, 2012, 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability & Diversity 2012  
(Formerly called the Pacific Rim International Conference on Disabilities)  
Pacific Alliance High School Special Session on March 27, 2012  
March 26 & 27, 2012, Hawai'i Convention Center

For more information on Upcoming Events, contact Jenna Komatsu  
([komatsuj@hawaii.edu](mailto:komatsuj@hawaii.edu) or [808-779-3535](tel:808-779-3535)).



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Dean Hayashida watches as students assemble a solar vehicle.



Hye Jung Kim presents a "Toothpick Geometry" workshop.



Justin Toyofuku gives a short math lesson during the Aquabotics workshop.



Michael Andonian co-leads the Aquabotics workshop.

*The PacRim Conference 2011 focused on the issues and needs of persons who are disadvantaged, marginalized, or otherwise require special consideration or accommodation in their life with 230 presentations, breakout sessions, and workshops.*

## Pacific Alliance at Pac Rim 2011

On April 19, 2011, 26 high school students receiving special education services attended the 27th Annual Pacific Rim (PacRim) International Conference on Disabilities--*Humanity: Advancing Inclusion, Equality and Diversity*, at the Hawai'i Convention Center.

The Pacific Alliance project sponsored attendance of teachers and students from Roosevelt, Kaimuki, McKinley, and Pearl City High Schools. At the conference, participants had an opportunity to visit the conference exhibition hall, join nearly a thousand attendees for lunch and attend the first Pacific Alliance Special Session for high school students.

This Special Session Explore Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics: Learn about STEM in College, allowed students to select two of the following workshops to attend:

*Toothpick Geometry, Solar Car Race, Computer Aided Design (3D CAD), Aquabotics*

*Digital Story Making.*

The presenters were identified through the Communities of Practice. Students had a terrific time!



Mahalo nui loa to the following presenters:

- Michael Andonian, *Mathematics graduate student, UH at Mānoa*
- Dr. Song K. Choi, *Assistant Dean of the College of Engineering, UH at Mānoa*
- Dean S. Hayashida, *STEM Outreach Coordinator for the College of Engineering, UH at Mānoa*
- Hye Jung Kim, *Mathematics graduate student, UH at Mānoa*
- Collin Kobayashi, *President and Founder of 3D Innovations*
- LJ Rayphand, *Educational Technology graduate student, UH at Mānoa*
- Justin Toyofuku, *Mathematics graduate student, UH at Mānoa*

Also, thank you to the teachers and college student mentors who accompanied the high school students.

## Pacific Alliance Summer Internship Institute 2011

Twenty-six Pacific Alliance high school and college students were accepted as interns for the first Pacific Alliance Summer Internship Institute, held June 21-23, 2011. The Institute was based at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, with field trips to downtown Honolulu's Archinoetics, LLC and Windward Community College's Hokulani Imaginarium & Aerospace Lab.

The purpose of the institute was to provide Pacific Alliance students with experiences to support them in their academic and professional career in a STEM field. Participants also had the opportunity to share what they learned; meet other student interns with disabilities interested in STEM; and receive a \$500 stipend upon completion of the internship.

In addition to the field trips, students were matched based on their interests and met with researchers at UH Mānoa's School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST) and College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). Participants interacted with researchers at the Center for Microbial Oceanography: Research and Education (C-MORE), visited CTAHR's Insect Museum, or extracted papaya DNA with the staff of CTAHR's Biotechnology and Agricultural Educational Program.

Lastly, the Institute program included informational breakout sessions that high school students attended such as workshops on applying to college, financial aid, and the differences between college and high school disability related services. College students attended a study skills session and a workshop on applying for jobs.

*Mahalo to the following presenters: Archinoetics, LLC; Ann Ito, Director of the KOKUA Program at UH Mānoa; Dr. Rosemarie V. Woodruff, Director of the Learning Assistance Center at UH Mānoa; Mary Beth Laychak and Krissie Kellogg, Windward Community College Hokulani Imaginarium and Aerospace Exploration Laboratory; Gus Cobb-Adams, Recruitment Specialist, Windward Community College; Cori Ishitani and Angela Coloretti, Job Prep Services, Leeward Community College; Cherie Hayes-Gigante, Program Director, UH Mānoa Online Learning Academy; Dr. Luc LeBlanc, CTAHR, UH Mānoa; Michael San Jose, CTAHR, UH Mānoa; Jacqueline Padilla-Gamino, SOEST, UH Mānoa; Martha Gauthier, CTAHR, UH Mānoa; Jacqueline Padilla-Gamino SOEST & C-MORE*

