



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**XXX**

**CONTACTS:**

Margot Schrire, University of Hawai'i Foundation  
(808) 956-6774 or [Margot.Schrire@uhfoundation.org](mailto:Margot.Schrire@uhfoundation.org)

---

**PUNA GEOTHERMAL VENTURE SUPPORTS SCIENCE SUMMER  
CAMPS FOR KIDS AT 'IMILOA**

**Hilo** - UH Hilo's 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i recently received a \$5,000 gift from Puna Geothermal Venture (PGV) and its parent company Ormat. The gift helped to subsidize program tuition costs for local schoolchildren to attend 'Imiloa's Summer Camp programs focused on sustainable technology. The gift will also enable 'Imiloa to expand its outreach into school classrooms in the Keaau, Pahoa, Puna areas of the Big Island.

"We appreciate the investment and commitment Puna Geothermal Venture and Ormat has made to the community through their gift in support of summer camp programs at 'Imiloa. These programs are important because they help engage our local schoolchildren in the concepts of science, technology, engineering and math in meaningful and relevant ways," said Ka'iu Kimura, Executive Director of 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i, a part of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. "It was exciting to see children's faces light up when the engineering designs they worked so diligently on were tested and found to be successful – we live for those moments."

'Imiloa's Summer Camp program, named "Sustainability through Technology," aimed to engage on youth in science, technology, engineering and math concepts throughout the month of June. Boys and girls between grades 5-8 had the opportunity to create geothermal plant models using hydrodynamics kits that taught them about valve technology, turbines, and pumps. Those with successful models were awarded engineering "contracts" for their engineering prowess. Children also had the opportunity to experiment with fuel cell car kits and even build a take-home wind turbine kit.

- more -

Participants were treated to a special presentation by PGV staff including Michael Kaleikini, General Manager, and Tito Agbayani, Administrative Supervisor. Kaleikini and Agbayani shared information with participants about the different types of sustainable energy available in on Hawai‘i Island including solar, wind, ocean thermal, hydro power and geothermal. They explained how geothermal heat and steam is converted into electricity, why it’s important, and why it is considered to be the most reliable alternate renewable energy source. Camp participants also received information on what types of career opportunities are available including scientists, geologists, engineers, operators, and administrators.

School classroom outreach programs will begin later this year. The outreach component of the gift takes components of the summer camp on sustainability and will engage students in grades 5-12 from select Puna-area schools. Outreach kits will focus on geothermal and other sustainable energies and ‘Imiloa staff will bring hands-on learning into classrooms using hydrodynamic kit models to engage students in related engineering concepts.

*For more information on how you can support the ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center, please call Nico Verissimo at (808) 969-9732 or [nverissimo@imiloahawaii.org](mailto:nverissimo@imiloahawaii.org).*

**PHOTO CAPTION:** Summer camp participants construct geothermal models using hydrodynamic engineering kits.

**PHOTO COURTESY OF:** ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center

**To view more photos and videos from the camp, please visit:**

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJrKdi3V93o>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZWZWI-TpTc>

---

**The University of Hawai‘i Foundation**, a nonprofit organization, raises private funds to support the University of Hawai‘i System. Our mission is to unite our donors’ passions with the University of Hawai‘i’s aspirations to benefit the people of Hawai‘i and beyond. We do this by raising private philanthropic support, managing private investments and nurturing donor and alumni relationships. [www.uhfoundation.org](http://www.uhfoundation.org)

**The University of Hawai‘i at Hilo** is a comprehensive university with five degree-granting colleges, six master’s programs and two doctoral programs. UH Hilo strives to integrate culture and science, offer hands-on learning opportunities to its students and use the Island of Hawai‘i as a natural learning laboratory. Enrollment has doubled since 1980 to nearly 4,000 students coming from all fifty states and more than 40 countries. Please visit [www.uhh.hawaii.edu](http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu).

**‘Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai‘i** is a world-class informal science education center located on the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo campus. ‘Imiloa is a place of life-long learning where the power of Hawai‘i’s cultural traditions, its legacy of exploration and the wonders of astronomy come together to provide inspiration and hope for generations. The Center’s interactive exhibits, 3D full dome planetarium, native landscape, and programs and events engage children, families and the local community in the wonders of science and technology found in Hawai‘i. It is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday (closed Mondays). For more information, visit the website at [www.imiloahawaii.org](http://www.imiloahawaii.org) or call (808) 969-9703.