

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA HAMAMOTO
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
WAIAKEA HIGH SCHOOL
155 W. KAWILI STREET
HILO, HAWAII 96720-5098

PATRICIA NEKOBA, Ed. D.
PRINCIPAL

PHONE: 808-974-4898 FAX: 808-974-4860

October 20, 2006

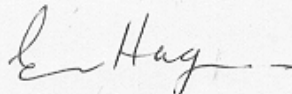
To: Caltech Submillimeter Observatory

We wish to thank you for the support you have provided for our students by allowing Riley Ceria to conduct classes over the last few months at Waiakea High School and apologize for not thanking you sooner. A little over 5 years ago the Waiakea High School robotics club started up with our participation in FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics in the Pacific Northwest regional held in Seattle, Washington. When we saw the influence the program had on our students we immediately began planning for an expansion of robotics and technology at Waiakea High. Today we are in the second year of our engineering academy and have seen it grow from 60 to 180 students enrolled in 5 different classes that range from Algebra II for engineering to senior engineering seminar. We have continued our very successful robotics program and have seen our students win first place in various State robotic events such as Botball and the Hawaii Underwater Robotic Contest. Part of our future plans is to be the first team from the United States to participate in a microbot contest to be held in Nagoya, Japan sometime in the fall of 2007. Riley has been coming in twice a week after school to teach our students the basics of electrical engineering to prepare us to enter the contest. So far, I've seen students with very little to no electrical background build small circuits that are run by a programmable PIC. Eventually this will lead to the construction of small robots which we hope to enter in next year's contest.

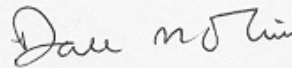
Besides his direct instruction with our students, Riley has been instrumental in assisting us with suggestions for our underwater robots too. He has helped us as instructors to gain a better understanding of electricity so we can better help our students. We also hope to tap his

talent for this year's entry into FIRST as we prepare to attend the prestigious Silicon Valley Regional in San Jose from March 15-17, 2007. We'll have six weeks, starting in early January, to build a 130-pound robot to enter this years "game". We would love to list Caltech Submillimeter Observatory as a mentor for our team in the regional program to recognize the help Riley has given us.

Once again, we are very appreciative of the outreach you have done at our school through Riley. To date, I'd say he has directly influenced between 20-30 students and much more indirectly as we share with our students what we have learned from him. The majority of our students in the program will go on to major in engineering and other technology related fields. We hope you feel satisfaction in being a part of this endeavor to reach students and to help them achieve their goals. We'd love to come and do any sort of presentation before your board or committees and list you as a sponsor of our programs. Please let us know if we can assist you in any way.



Eric Hagiwara
Math Teacher/Robotics Advisor
Waiakea High School



Dale M. Olive
Science Teacher/Robotics Advisor
Waiakea High School

