

Proclamation

Competitive robotics is an important extracurricular activity for our students. It provides a hands-on, contextual learning experience for students that expands their knowledge of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Moreover, competitions such as Botball help participants develop a diligent work ethic and learn valuable life skills, including teamwork and professionalism.

An educational program of the KISS Institute for Practical Robotics, Botball provides an excellent opportunity for middle and high school students to learn STEM skills through creating and programming a robot with reusable materials. Botball has also helped broaden the appeal of pursuing further studies and career opportunities in STEM fields for participants.

Botball appeals to a wide range of students, and has been successful in engaging at-risk students in alternative schools as well as high-achievers. Since the Botball Educational Robotics Program began in 1997, more than 79,000 individuals have participated, including more than 34,000 students, and it now includes teams from across our nation and around the world.

Locally, the Hawai'i Botball Program started in 2004 with 23 teams, and has since expanded to 37 teams representing 36 schools statewide, the second-most teams and the most schools of all other participating states and countries.

From July 10 through 13, the KISS Institute for Practical Robotics will host the National Conference on Educational Robotics (NCER) at the Hawai'i Convention Center. This important conference will bring together students, teachers and others interested in using robotics in education, and will also provide students with a valuable opportunity to explore career fields related to their Botball experiences.

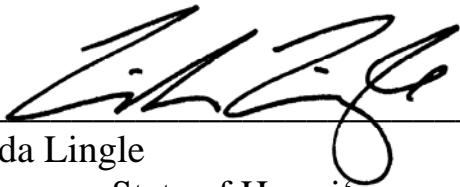
The NCER will also include the International Botball Tournament, which will feature 65 teams representing regions from throughout the U.S. mainland and the world, including 20 teams from the Hawai'i.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **July 8 through 14, 2007**, as

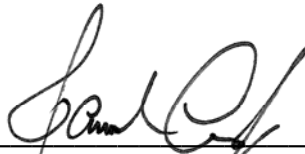
BOTBALL WEEK

in Hawai'i, and strongly encourage students, parents, teachers and others interested in robotics to take advantage of the valuable information and resources available through the NCER.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this sixth day of July 2007.



Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i



James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i