



# Proclamation

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

Olomana School, which serves the Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility in Kailua, founded a Botball team with 20 students in October 2006 in order to help turn around the lives of these young men. Their teacher, Melissa Zen, viewed Botball as a way to instill such values as initiative and responsibility.

On April 28 of this year, the team, nicknamed the "Olomonsters," participated in the Hawai'i Botball Regional Robotics Tournament, becoming the first team from a correctional facility to participate in such an event. The team achieved tremendous success in its first ever competition, winning three awards: fifth place overall, third place in double elimination against another team and the judges' choice award for "best positive attitude and determination to succeed."

Botball has also helped broaden the appeal of pursuing further studies and career opportunities in STEM fields for these students. As a result, the heightened interest in this technology-based approach to education is helping to turn around young lives. Already, the "Olomonsters" have set their sights on competing in the International Conference on Educational Robotics, which will be held in Hawai'i for the first time July 10 through 13.

**THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.,** Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **May 3, 2007**, as

## **OLOMANA SCHOOL BOTBALL TEAM DAY**

in Hawai'i, and congratulate each team member, adviser, mentor and sponsor for an outstanding performance.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this third day of May 2007.

Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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