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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Maui Economic Development Board Announces
2008 Ke Alahele Grant Recipients**

Maui Economic Development Board, Inc. (MEDB) announced the recent round of grant recipients of their Ka Alahele Education Fund, a dynamic initiative that is helping to strengthen Maui County's education to workforce pipeline for science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

This year, over \$49,500 was awarded to 14 recipients whose programs will impact over 1,000 students, educators and community stakeholders in Maui County.

This year's recipients are:

Waihee Beach Project, Maui Waena Intermediate School
GPS Technology Project, King Kekaulike High School
Botball Team, King Kekaulike High School
Maui Malama Kahakai Project, Pomaikai Elementary School
Water It Does the 'Aina Good Project, Kalama Intermediate School
Waihe'e Watershed Investigation & Restoration Global Warming Project, Kalama Intermediate School
Robotics Team, Iao School
Lego League Team, Maui Girls 4-H Club
Lego League Team, Bunnies 4-H Club
Beach Formation Change Research & Inquiry Science Project, Haiku Elementary School
Huli Au Ola Summer Leadership Program, Huli Au Ola (Maui County Area Health Education Center on Molokai)
Summer Math Classes, Kihei Charter School
Ho'okuleana Molokai, Papini Innovations
Digital Media Production Project, Kalama Intermediate

In 2006, MEDB established the Ke Alahele Education Fund to stimulate community investment in broadening career pathways for Maui County residents. With generous private contributions from Maui-based business and community partners, over \$75,000 has been awarded, to date, to educators, students, parent groups and community organizations involved or interested in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. In addition to the grant program, the Fund also offers internships, apprenticeships, professional development and training assistance.

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"Today, most career pathways require STEM skills to be competitive," said Jeanne Skog, MEDB President and CEO. "One of the Fund's goals is to help encourage these opportunities and learning experiences so our youth can compete successfully in the 21st century."

"As educators, we are constantly faced with budgetary constraints," said Diana Warren. "We are so pleased that the Ho'okuleana Moloka'i program was funded. Teachers of grades K-6 on Moloka'i will be participating in a three day workshop in June that will familiarize them with environmental monitoring techniques at a fish pond, in the wetlands and on a northern coastal area. The emphasis of the workshop is to connect teachers with local resources and partners so they can effectively implement more field studies with their students this Fall. Mahalo to MEDB and the Ke Alahele Fund!!"

The application deadline is open and the committee expects to make another round of awards in time for summer programs or professional development training.
For more information on the Ke Alahele Education Fund, visit www.medb.org or call MEDB at 808-875-2300.

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