

For Immediate Release

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Keiki Fishing Derby to be held at Waikua‘a‘ala Fishpond *Family fun day at Kahalu‘u Bay will help remove invasive tilapia*

KAMUELA, Hawai‘i—October 1, 2013—Children ages seven to fifteen are invited to register for a Keiki Fishing Derby to be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, October 26, at Kahalu‘u Beach Park.

This fun community event is being organized by the Kahalu‘u Bay Education Center. Registration and information are available online at KeikiFishingDerby.org or at the Kahalu‘u Bay Education Center at Kahalu‘u Beach Park.

Keiki (children) will have a chance to fish tilapia from Waikua‘a‘ala Fishpond at Kahalu‘u Beach Park, learn about environmental stewardship, and win prizes. Participants will compete in two age divisions, with keiki ages 7–10 competing at 10 a.m. and ages 11–15 at 11 a.m.

Judges will award prizes to boys and girls in each division in three categories: Most Fish Caught, Biggest Fish Caught, and Best Homemade Fishing Pole. Prizes will be provided by event sponsors Fair Wind Ocean Guides, Jack’s Diving Locker, Body Glove, Patagonia, and Kona Aquaponics. KWXX-FM, B93 & B97 FM, and KTA Superstores are also event sponsors.

Entrants must make and bring their own homemade bamboo fishing poles. All poles are to be constructed with a bamboo rod, fishing line, and a size 14 barbless hook. Instructions on how to construct a fishing pole may be found at <http://bit.ly/16mCLBu>. Participants are encouraged to be creative and decorate their fishing poles. Bait will be provided.

“We thought having a fishing derby in which kids could catch fish and compete for prizes would be a fun way to reduce the pond’s tilapia population, while also connecting kids to the area’s history and ecosystem health,” said Cindi Punihaole, program director of Kahalu‘u Bay Education Center. “Plus it’s a great opportunity for families to enjoy a day together at Kahalu‘u Bay and Beach Park full of fun, family-friendly activities.”

All tilapia caught will go to [Kona Aquaponics](http://KonaAquaponics), which will raise them for food and use their waste

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to fertilize the aquaponic farm. Daniel Kauth of Kona Aquaponics said he is building a new grow bed just for the fish caught at the derby.

“I believe in helping Kahalu‘u Bay,” Kauth said, calling it a win-win situation. “It’s a beautiful and important community gathering place, and Kahalu‘u Bay Education Center’s efforts to protect the bay and bring the park back to its ‘glory days’ are admirable. We’re pleased to be a part of this event, and put the tilapia to good use for the benefit of others.”

Other activities planned for the day include lauhala and coconut frond weaving with Auntie Mele Waikiki, Hawaiian games (*konane*, *pala‘ie* and *hei*), face painting, a visit by Hoagus Boagus Da Clown, and Hawaiian music entertainment.

The event is free, with a suggested donation of \$10 to register for the fishing derby. All proceeds will help Kahalu‘u Bay Education Center keep Kahalu‘u Bay a healthy and happy place.

About The Kohala Center

The Kohala Center is an independent, not-for-profit, community-based center for research, education, and conservation. The Center was established in direct response to the request of island residents to create greater educational and employment opportunities by enhancing—and celebrating—Hawai‘i’s spectacular natural and cultural landscapes.

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