

**For Immediate Release**

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***Scholarships offered for island Environmental Leadership Lab***

KAMUELA, Hawaii—December 19, 2008—Island high school students are invited to join teens from across the country for a week-long outdoor adventure and an outstanding environmental leadership program—the Brown Environmental Leadership Lab (BELL) on Hawaii Island in April 2009.

The Kohala Center and Brown University are offering tuition scholarships for two students to attend BELL Hawaii on April 4–11, 2009.

In this select national leadership program, students develop their leadership skills while studying our island's biology, ecology, and cultural traditions. The program focuses on the interdependence of land, sea, and the life systems they support and is led by leading island scientists, cultural leaders, and environmental experts.

Students will experience incredible adventures as they learn about the culture and history of the island, participate in the restoration of native forests, explore the geological wonders of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, kayak in coastal waters, camp at Kawaihae, and study coral reef ecology and management.

2008 scholarship recipient Faith Ozer of Saint Joseph High School described BELL Hawaii as an once-in-a-lifetime experience. "At BELL I came closer than I could ever imagine to other teens from across the country. We camped out without electricity, cell phones, or anything else from the outside world, and I can honestly say that it was the greatest time of my life. I learned about the Hawaiian culture and experienced firsthand the one-of-a-kind landscapes of this beautiful island. I learned much about myself through team-building exercises and matured as a young adult and as a leader. The BELL trip was a unique once-in-a-lifetime experience that I will always cherish."

Olympia Zampathas of Honakaa High School was also a 2008 BELL Hawaii scholarship recipient.

January 30, 2009, is the deadline to submit all application materials to The Kohala Center. Applications can be mailed to The Kohala Center, P.O. Box 437462, Kamuela, HI 96743, or faxed to 808-885-6707. The following application materials can be downloaded at [www.kohalacenter.org/bell](http://www.kohalacenter.org/bell) or are available from The Kohala Center, 808-887-6411.

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- Scholarship Application Form
- BELL Program Application Form
- Teacher's Recommendation

The application must also include an official school transcript and a one-page essay describing what you hope to learn during this course.

For more program details, visit the BELL Web site [www.brown.edu/scs/pre-college/leadership/hawaii/program.php](http://www.brown.edu/scs/pre-college/leadership/hawaii/program.php). For application information, contact Samantha Birch, 808-443-2755 or [sbirch@kohalacenter.org](mailto:sbirch@kohalacenter.org).

Brown University has partnered with The Kohala Center to offer this competitive program for pre-college students with interests in science, leadership, and cultural studies. The Kohala Center is an independent, not-for-profit center for research and education *about* and *for* the environment, and links together a diverse network of island-based institutions with expertise in the physical and cultural sciences, politics, education, and history. Both Brown University and The Kohala Center are committed to helping Hawaii Island residents preserve and enhance the intellectual, cultural, and natural assets of the island. To learn more about The Kohala Center programs, see [www.KohalaCenter.org](http://www.KohalaCenter.org).