

**For Immediate Release**

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**The Kohala Center offers scholarships for Cornell summer research program**

KAMUELA, Hawai‘i—March 4, 2008—The Kohala Center is looking for Hawai‘i Island high school girls who dream big!

Teenage girls with a strong interest in math and science, who want to learn more about careers in engineering, are invited to apply for scholarships offered by The Kohala Center to attend Cornell University’s CURIE Academy this summer.

The CURIE Academy, a one-week research experience and residential program hosted by Cornell’s Diversity Programs in Engineering, will be July 20-26 on the Ithaca, New York campus. Thirty participants selected from around the globe will engage in meaningful engineering research, while experiencing life on a university campus.

“I am pleased that The Kohala Center can provide girls from Hawai‘i Island high schools the opportunity to study with other talented young scientists and engineers from around the world and at one of our country’s best universities,” said Matt Hamabata, executive director of The Kohala Center.

This summer, The CURIE Scholars will experience how engineers learn about a medical or research problem, how they gather the tools and technologies to address these problems and how to put it all together to generate a working system that can have an impact on human health and medicine as well as enable new directions for future research.

CURIE scholars will learn about the physics of light and the use of optical technologies to probe and measure blood flow in a live person. They will also learn about the physiology of the circulatory system and the fundamentals of fluid flow in the vasculature. Additionally, they will be given the challenge of constructing several different optically-based tools to image blood cells and vasculature, quantify blood flow and blood oxygenation, and make other measurements in the lab.

Applicants to the academy must have at least a 3.0 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale), be entering their junior or senior year of high school, and have completed algebra II and three science courses.

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The Kohala Center is offering up to three partial scholarships for travel and tuition for this summer's CURIE Academy. Program and scholarship applications can be downloaded from [www.kohalacenter.org](http://www.kohalacenter.org). More information about the program can be found at [www.engineering.cornell.edu/curie](http://www.engineering.cornell.edu/curie).

Applicants must submit their completed applications and supporting materials to The Kohala Center by Wednesday, April 9, 2008. Admissions decisions for the CURIE Academy will be available by mid-May.

For more information, please contact Samantha Birch, The Kohala Center Program Services Coordinator at [sbirch@kohalacenter.org](mailto:sbirch@kohalacenter.org) or 808-887-6411. Scholarships for this program are funded, in part, through generous donations to The Kohala Center.

CURIE 2007 scholars included Akela Kuwahara, Hilo High School, and Malia Donaghy, then a student at Ke Kula 'O Nawahiokalani 'Opu 'U Iki Laboratory Public Charter School. Kuwahara and Donaghy's research focused on joint bioengineering and understanding sports injuries and arthritis.

The Kohala Center is an independent not-for-profit academic institute for research and education in the environmental sciences. The Kohala Center operates in partnership with local, national and international research and educational institutions. Among the Center's current project partners are Cornell University; the University of Hawai'i; Hawai'i Community College; Brown University; Yale University; the University of California at Santa Barbara; the U.S. Office of Naval Research; the U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); and Sokendai—the Graduate University for Advanced Studies in Japan.