



**Papa Ola Lokahi**  
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

**Papa Ola Lokahi**

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#### **Papa Ola Lokahi**

is a non-profit Native Hawaiian organization founded in 1988 for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and other native peoples of the Pacific and continental United States.

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*Hardy Spoehr*

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## **HAWAIIAN NINTH-GRADER VIES FOR AMERICA'S TOP YOUNG SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR, 2005**

(Honolulu, Hawai'i). Hilo ninth-grader Melissa Pomaika'i Akiko Luga has been selected finalist in the 2005 Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge for her research identifying the phytochemical properties of the paperbark tree.

As a Liko Noelo (budding researcher) Melissa became 'Imi Hale's youngest researcher in 2004 when, as a 7th grader, she was recognized for her natural products research on Allelopathic Potential of the Paperbark Tree (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*). Melissa continued this year with Phase II of the study, which received 'Imi Hale's highest award for cancer prevention and control in the statewide Academy of Science fair, Junior Research Division.

Nurtured at the Kamehameha Schools, Kea'au Campus Middle School, Melissa is now in high school and a boarder at the Kapālama campus on O'ahu. She has a promising career in scientific research.

Forty (40) finalists, including three others from Hawai'i, will travel to Washington D.C. in October 2005 to compete for a share of more than \$40,000 in scholarships and prizes. More information on the Young Scientist Challenge can be found at <http://school.discovery.com/sciencefaircentral/dysc/index.html>. The Discovery Channel's September 14, 2005 [news release](#) is attached.

*'Imi Hale is the Native Hawaiian Cancer Awareness, Research & Training Network at Papa Ola Lōkahi funded by the National Cancer Institute to reduce the incidence and mortality from cancer in Native Hawaiians. It is one of only 25 Special Population Networks funded by the NCI-Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities, and the only one in the country that is community-based.*

*Papa Ola Lōkahi, founded in 1988, is recognized by the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act to improve the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians.*

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