

2024 Eddie Would Go Essay Contest



About Eddie Aikau

“EDDIE WOULD GO” These few words have carried the story of Eddie Aikau around the world. Eddie Aikau was a humble, quiet person with a reputation for courage. The saying, *“Actions speak louder than words”* is very much a part of his story.

One of the greatest Hawaiian surfers who ever lived, he was one of the few surfers who rode “mountains,” the huge winter waves at Waimea Bay on the North Shore of Oahu. Eddie surfed with a passion and determination possessed by only a select group of professional athletes—those who become one with the ocean and an extension of its power. Surrounded with the ocean, he simply enjoyed the challenges it offered. For Eddie, the ocean was a spiritual place. He met its challenges with the utmost respect.

His skills as a big wave surfer and his love of the ocean gave him the determination to become one of the first City and County lifeguards on the North Shore of Oahu. Eddie became the guardian of Waimea Bay and continued to surf some of the biggest waves in the world. He took on the responsibility, not only of helping to make the beaches safer, but of willingly sharing his knowledge of the ocean with visitors to Hawaii, so they could enjoy the beautiful beaches and go home safely to their family and friends. Eddie understood the importance of being trained and ready to make a rescue at any time. He had to communicate and cooperate with others who helped during these rescues. When the ocean threatened the life of anyone near him, whether he was on duty or not, Eddie would risk his life without hesitation to save anyone in danger and he always showed compassion. In 1971, he was awarded the highest honor as the Honolulu City

2024 Eddie Would Go Essay Contest

& County Lifeguard of the Year. Eddie's heroics as a lifeguard became legendary and proved even then that "Eddie Would Go."

But foremost in Eddie's heart was his family. He loved his "*Ohana*" and upheld the Aikau family name with integrity and honor. The values that he was taught by his mother and father were evident in everything he did. He was very proud of his Hawaiian heritage, preserving his ancestry and culture was very important to him.

One of Eddie's dreams was to sail on the *Hokule`a*, an 8 ton, 62 feet-long, double-hull Polynesian voyaging canoe. To Eddie, the *Hokule`a* was a true symbol of his Hawaiian heritage and the future — the heart and the soul of Hawaii. Eddie was a surfer, not an experienced sailor, but he was determined to become a member of the crew. With his passion and dedication, he achieved his dream and was selected to be a crew member for the 1978 voyage to Tahiti.

On March 16, 1978, the *Hokule`a* set sail with Eddie on board. Late that night the double-hull canoe capsized in rough weather. After many hours spent clinging to the overturned canoe in the stormy seas, it seemed that no one would be rescued. It was natural that Eddie would offer to go for help. So, Eddie went! He paddled away on his surfboard, but was never seen again. The rest of the crew was rescued soon after. It is Eddie's spirit filling the sails of the *Hokule`a* today as he guides her every voyage.

Eddie Aikau was a legendary big wave surfer, a heroic lifeguard, who made the ultimate sacrifice for his fellow crew members on the 1978 voyage of the *Hokule`a*. His legacy is not to live solely for yourself, but to help each other and to be of service. He truly embodied the Aloha Spirit.

2024 Eddie Would Go Essay Contest

About the Essay Contest

- **Eligibility** - The Eddie Aikau Essay contest is open to all students in grade levels 7, 8, 9, and 10 who are currently enrolled in public or private schools, or participate in a home-school program, in Hawaii.
- **The 2024 Essay Contest writing PROMPT is:**

Eddie Aikau was a well-known Hawaiian big wave surfer and a respected City & County Lifeguard at Waimea Bay on the North Shore of Oahu, where he often risked his life to make sure the beaches were safe for everyone. In 1978 he made the ultimate sacrifice by giving his life in a heroic attempt to save the crew of the Polynesian Voyaging Canoe Hōkūle‘a, when it capsized in rough seas.

kūpa‘a is the Hawaiian word that means determined & steadfast. To be brave and bold is *ho‘okoa* in Hawaiian.

Describe how these values were reflected in the actions & life of Eddie Aikau.

Give supporting examples or evidence.

Describe how these values influence you and the actions you take in life. Give supporting examples or evidence.

- Student applications for eligible students will be available on the **Eddie Aikau Foundation** website at: www.eddieaikaufoundation.org
- **The Student Application form must be completed & signed by the Student and a parent or legal guardian.** Submit it with the completed essay. Students must provide email addresses and phone numbers for their parent or legal guardian on the application.
- Essays may be submitted in **English or Hawaiian** language.

ENGLISH DIVISION

- All properly completed Student Applications and essays that are **POSTMARKED, or Emailed** on or before **February 17, 2024**, will be accepted from eligible students in each grade level (7, 8, 9 & 10). Essays for **each grade level** will be judged **separately**.

HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE DIVISION

- The Hawaiian language division is open to all eligible students in each grade level (7, 8, 9 & 10). All properly completed Student Applications and essays that are **POSTMARKED, or Emailed** on or before **February 17, 2024**, will be accepted. Essays from **all four (4) grade levels** in the Hawaiian language division will be **combined** for judging, unless the number of essays received warrants separating the submissions by grade level.

2024 Eddie Would Go Essay Contest

- The translation of the Essay PROMPT from English to **Hawaiian** will be posted on the Foundation website at: www.eddieaikaufoundation.org for those students who wish to submit their essay in the Hawaiian language for judging.

Essay Requirements

- The essay must be the student's OWN work.
- The essay should have a TITLE that captures the idea of the essay.
- The essay must **NOT** reveal the Student's Name or School anywhere on, or within the essay.
- The essay should be a MAXIMUM of 1000 words in length.
- The essay must be *typewritten, double-spaced*, in **12-point font** size.
- Two (2) hard copies (*single sided only*) of the essay should be submitted when mailed. Or the essay can be emailed as a WORD, or a pdf document to: eaf5446@gmail.com **Do not send the essay both ways.**
- **The essay should answer the following Prompt:**

kūpa'a is the Hawaiian word that means determined & steadfast. To be brave and bold is *ho'okoa* in Hawaiian.

Describe how these values were reflected in the actions & life of Eddie Aikau.

Give supporting examples or evidence.

Describe how these values influence you and the actions you take in life. Give supporting examples or evidence.

How the Contest is Run

- All essays & applications which meet the contest requirements **and** are properly received by the **February 17, 2024** deadline will be eligible for judging in either the English **or** Hawaiian language divisions.
- Awards in the **English** Division will include: First, Second, Third places and two (2) Honorable-mention awards for **each** grade level (7, 8, 9 & 10).
- Awards in the **Hawaiian** Language Division will include: First, Second, Third places and two (2) Honorable-mention awards for the **overall** division... 7, 8, 9 & 10th grade levels **combined**.
- **CASH** prizes will be awarded to the winners in the English Division and the Hawaiian Language Division as follows: First place **\$500**, Second place **\$350**, Third place **\$250**, and **\$100** for each of the two (2) Honorable-mention winners.

2024 Eddie Would Go Essay Contest

- If the number of completed essays received is exceptionally low, the **Eddie Aikau Foundation** Board of Directors reserves the right to make reasonable adjustments in the awards given.

Judging Criteria – A maximum of 100 Points can be earned

I. **ESSAY CONTENT (70 Points)**

- Meaning (50 pts)
Insight and understanding behind the words;
There is a point to the writing, you create something worth reading.
- Voice (20 pts)
The imprint of the writer;
The reader of your essay has a sense of the writer behind the words; writing shows conviction and caring, and engages the reader.
-The tone and the message are positive and reflect Eddie's values.
-The essay cites examples from Eddie's life that answer the question posed in the Prompt.

II. **PRESENTATION (20 Points)**

- Clarity (10 pts)
Word choice, language, and sentence structure clearly convey the intended meaning.
- Design (10 pts)
Form and structure give the writing coherence and move the reader through the essay.

-The essay is well organized and clearly written.
-The writing is interrelated, cohesive and proportionate.
-The writing gives the reader a complete message.
-The writer's views are clearly stated.
-The language is precise, vivid, clear and has meaning and purpose.

III. **WRITING SKILL (10 Points)**

- The essay shows a grasp of standard writing skills of grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and paragraphing.

2024 Eddie Would Go Essay Contest

Timeline

January 17, 2024 - Wednesday

Contest announcement posted on Foundation Website,
& Social Media.
Student Application and Contest Guidelines available online at
www.eddieaikaufoundation.org

February 17, 2024 - Saturday

Postmark & Email deadline for completed ESSAYS, which
must include a SIGNED Student Application in order to be
accepted for judging.
Essays may be submitted by email, or mail. Do not send it both ways.

March 1 to March 10 , 2024

Remote Judging sessions for all essays submitted by the
deadline date that meets the Eligibility requirements.

March 25 to April 6, 2024

All Student Winners, Parents & Teachers notified.

April 8, 2024 - Monday

Names of Student Winners will be announced.
Names of Student Winners will be posted on the Foundation website.

April 13, 2024 - Saturday – 10 am to 3 pm

Essay Awards luncheon & presentation – Waimea Valley Park Pavilion

2024 Eddie Would Go Essay Contest

Contact Information

For questions and information, or to make arrangements to speak with a member of the Aikau Ohana, please contact:

The Eddie Aikau Foundation

email: info@eddieaikaufoundation.org

TO SUBMIT BY MAIL:

Mail TWO (2) copies (*single sided only*) of the essay AND the Signed Student Application to the following address:

352 Auwaiolimu St, Honolulu, HI 96813

Postmark Deadline Date: Saturday February 17, 2024

TO SUBMIT ELECTRONICALLY:

Students may submit their Essay and the completed Signed Student Application *electronically* (by email) as follows:

email: eaf5446@gmail.com

The **SUBJECT** Line of the email should indicate:

Grade Level - School Name - Student Name

Email & attach the completed Essay & the SIGNED Student Application by the DEADLINE Date of: **Saturday February 17, 2024**

The email should be dated no later than 2/17/24 for the Essay to be eligible for judging.

Do **not** submit the essay both ways.

2024 Eddie Would Go Essay Contest

STUDENT APPLICATION

Please PRINT clearly and complete ALL information requested.

Student's Name _____ Age ____ Grade _____

School _____ Teacher's Name _____

Teacher's Email Address _____

School or Teacher's Phone Number _____

NAME of Student's Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s)

Parent's / Guardian's Email or Phone _____

Student's Email or Mailing Address _____ Student- MALE FEMALE

Student's (Adult) T-Shirt size: **S / M / L / XL / 2XL / 3XL** (circle one)

By signing below, you and your parent or legal guardian give permission to the Eddie Aikau Foundation, the Hawaii DOE, and the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools to do the following: (1) use your name, your biographical information (other than mailing address), and your essay in their discretion in any lawful manner for non-commercial purposes, educational purposes, and promotional purposes associated with the Eddie Would Go Essay Contest (collectively, the "Permitted Purposes"); (2) reproduce your essay, along with your name and biographical information (other than mailing address), in any format, including but not limited to printed materials and digital and on-line formats such as the Internet, for the Permitted Purposes; (3) distribute your essay to third parties for the Permitted Purposes; and (4) if you are a contest winner, record and use your likeness, whether captured by means of a photograph, video recording, or another method, and voice, whether captured by means of audio recording or another method, for the Permitted Purposes in any format, including but not limited to printed materials and digital and on-line formats such as the Internet.

Student's Signature: _____ **(required)**

Parent or legal Guardian's signature: _____ **(required)**

Email Essay & Signed Student Application to: eaf5446@gmail.com

OR **(do not submit it both ways)**

Mail the signed Student Application and **2 hard copies (single sided only)** of the completed Essay to:

**The Eddie Aikau Foundation
352 Auwaiolimu Street, Honolulu, HI 96813**

Email date or Postmark date Deadline is: **Saturday February 17, 2024**

2024 Eddie Would Go Essay Contest

FOR THE STUDENT: TIPS AND REMINDERS FOR WRITING YOUR ESSAY

Before you write, do some research. Possible resources include:

- Read the book, “Eddie Would Go” by Stuart Coleman (found in St of HI public libraries).
- View the **ESPN** documentary, “Hawaiian: The Legend of Eddie Aikau” *Teachers or parents may email the Foundation & we will arrange to lend a copy of the documentary to be shown to the students, subject to availability of supplies. Email the Foundation at: info@eddieaikaufoundation.org to make the arrangements.* This DVD is also available for purchase on Amazon, search under the title of the documentary.
- Search the internet e.g., newspaper articles in *The Honolulu Star Advertiser*, various other magazines, and media resources.
- Talk with someone who knew Eddie Aikau. Members of the Aikau Ohana are willing to speak with interested students about Eddie’s life. **Email them to make arrangements: info@eddieaikaufoundation.org**
- Visit the Eddie Aikau Foundation website: **www.eddieaikaufoundation.org**
- Visit the Polynesian Voyaging Society website:
<http://www.hokulea.com/voyages/our-story/>
- Visit the Wikipedia website and learn about the history of the Big Wave Invitational In Memory of Eddie Aikau. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Eddie
- Visit the current website of “THE EDDIE” Big Wave Invitational, now managed by the Aikau Family: <https://www.theeddieaikau.com/>

When you write:

- Introduce yourself and your thoughts to the reader. Use an appropriate title that states your point of view to be expressed in the essay.
- Create an original piece of writing that takes the reader from your title, to the introduction, through the body of your essay, and finally to the conclusion, in a clear, concise manner.
- Develop a topic you can focus on which will deliver your ideas to the reader clearly and convincingly.
- Finish your essay well ahead of time so you can take a day or two to read it again for a final review. Read it aloud to yourself or an adult to decide if changes are needed.

Check that you’ve met all of the contest requirements:

- The essay must be the student’s OWN work.
- The essay should have a TITLE that captures the idea of the essay.
- The essay must NOT reveal the Student’s Name or School anywhere on, or within the essay.
- The essay should be a MAXIMUM of 1000 words in length.
- The essay must be **typewritten, double-spaced**, and in **12-point font** size.
- Two (2) hard copies (single side only) of the essay should be submitted when mailed. Or the essay can be emailed as a WORD, or a pdf document. **Do NOT send it both ways.**
- **The essay answers the following Prompt:**
- ***kūpa’a* is the Hawaiian word that means determined & steadfast. To be brave and bold is *ho’okoa* in Hawaiian.**
Describe how these values were reflected in the actions & life of Eddie Aikau. Give supporting examples or evidence.
Describe how these values influence you and the actions you take in life. Give supporting examples or evidence.

Email Essay & Signed Student Application to: eaf5446@gmail.com **OR**

Mail the signed Student Application and 2 hard copies (single side only) of the completed Essay to: **The Eddie Aikau Foundation - 352 Auwaiolimu Street, Honolulu, HI 96813**
Email date or Postmark date Deadline is: **Saturday February 17, 2024**