All middle school students in Hawai‘i are invited to participate in the 8th Annual My Hawai‘i Story Project, an environmental writing contest. This contest encourages students to write about and promote stewardship of Hawaii’s natural environment for current and future generations.

This year’s contest theme is, “Navigating Change in the Pacific Islands”

ENTRIES DUE: MARCH 7, 2014

Submit entries online at: www.hawaiiconservation.org/myhawaii
ENTRY DETAILS
The 2014 My Hawai‘i creative writing contest is open to all middle school students (6-8th grade) in the state. Students are invited to submit their best story or poem that addresses this year’s theme, “Navigating Change in the Pacific Islands.”

* What can we learn from the past—and kūpuna—about protecting the environment for the future?
* What can you do to help Hawai‘i’s plants and animals survive in a changing world?

Entries should tell a story, not simply share information. Acrostic poems will not be accepted.

* All middle school students in Hawai‘i are eligible.
* Only one entry per student will be accepted.
* All entries must be submitted electronically. (No mailed entries will be accepted.)

Submit entries online at: www.hawaiiconservation.org/myhawaii

Entries are due by 5:00pm on March 7, 2014.

FORMAT
Submissions must be titled and typed in size 12, black font. Do not use special colors, fonts, or graphics of any kind. Stories and poems must be submitted as word documents (.doc) and 1,000 words or less.

Submit contact information in the entry form online, but do not reveal the student’s name or school anywhere in the text to maintain anonymity in the evaluation process. All entries will be reviewed online by a panel of judges with no access to any student identification or grade level.

By submitting an entry, the student and school authorize the My Hawai‘i Story Project to use the stories/poems for educational purposes including, but not limited to, print and web materials. In addition to the online entry form, please submit the Parent Authorization Form available at: www.hawaiiconservation.org/myhawaii

EVALUATION CRITERIA
All entries will be judged using the following criteria:

* Theme relevance - how well did you connect to the theme of “Navigating Change in the Pacific Islands”?
* Clarity of message - how well did you express your ideas?
* Creativity and originality - your work must be your own!

Entries will be assessed by how well you express your ideas using appropriate grammar and writing style.

WINNERS
Winners will be announced on May 16, 2014. The winning students will be published in the My Hawai‘i Story Project 2014 anthology and will receive a copy of the anthology, award certificate, and other special prizes. We hope all winners will be able to attend the awards ceremony on July 14, 2014. In addition, all state libraries will receive a copy of the anthology for their collections.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
This flyer is available on the Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance (HCA) website: www.hawaiiconservation.org/myhawaii. We encourage you to pass the flyer on to teachers and post it for students and parents.

Questions?
Contact: Amanda Dillon, Program Coordinator
Email: myhawaiistory@gmail.com

PROJECT PARTNERS
Friends of Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park
Hawai‘i Coastal Zone Management Program
Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance
Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance Foundation
Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources
- Division of Forestry and Wildlife
- Division of Aquatic Resources
Hawai‘i Department of Education
Hawai‘i Environmental Education Alliance
Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
The Pacific Writers’ Connection
Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

NAVIGATING CHANGE in the Pacific Islands