

Features

Hilo Rotarians make 'Connection' *Club donates digital media equipment to charter school*

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The Rotary Club of Hilo recently presented equipment to the Digital Media Program at Connections New Century Public Charter School to enable digital media students and their teacher, Nancy DeRego, to participate in PBS Hawaii's Hiki No statewide student news network.

Principal John Thatcher, DeRego and students Tanner Bowers, Justyn Ikeda, Meakalia Previch-Liu, and Samantha Steckler accepted the equipment from Rotarians Susan Munro, Kerry Glass, Jenny Johnson and Richard Johnson at a school assembly.

Munro said the gift will help DeRego "accomplish her digital storytelling project: students interviewing kupuna from all Big Island districts to preserve the stories of an older generation and way of life."

She added, "We got involved in this project because of PBS Hawaii. They are setting up Hiki No, a statewide student news network. We told PBS in Honolulu that we wanted to help. They sent a list of schools that were interested in Hiki No. We met with Nancy DeRego and were impressed with her plans to involve students in the project."

A list of the equipment, including a computer, compact stereo microphone, camera kit, tripod, and other necessities, was developed by other Rotarians in consultation with the Hiki No technical advisor in Honolulu. The Hilo Rotary Club Foundation provided funds for the program, along with a District Simplified Grant to the Rotary Club of Hilo.

In accepting the donation, Thatcher, the principal, thanked the Rotary Club of Hilo for the equipment and the building of relationships and connections as Rotarians assist in providing a way for the students to share their videos on subjects important to them via Rotary's international student-video-sharing website.

For more about the Rotary Club of Hilo, visit <http://www.hilorotary.org>.



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Members of the Rotary Club of Hilo present equipment to the Digital Media Program at Connections New Century Public Charter School. From left, are Richard Johnson, Jenny Johnson, Tanner Bowers, Justyn Ikeda, Principal John Thatcher, Meakalia Previch-Liu, Samantha Steckler, teacher Nancy DeRego, Susan Munro and Kerry Glass. - Hilo Rotary Photo