



ACTION FOR NATURE

*We encourage young people to take personal action
to protect the environment on which all life depends*

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Mililani Student Among 2020 International Young Eco-Hero Award Winners

Local Pre-teen Receives Top Honor for Contributions to Solving Environmental Problems

San Francisco – Rylee Brooke Kamahele, a 12 year-old from Mililani, Hawai'i, is one of seventeen young environmental activists from across the globe honored by Action for Nature (AFN) as a 2020 International Young Eco-Hero, an award that recognizes eco-conscious youth aged 8 to 16 for their creative initiatives aimed at tackling critical environmental challenges.

Awarded annually, these outstanding young people from across the globe are selected by a panel of independent judges, including experts in environmental science, biology, and education. For the past 17 years, the International Young Eco-Hero Awards have honored global youth in two categories – 8 to 12 years old and 13 to 16 years old – who are taking important steps to solve tough environmental problems. Since 2003, Action for Nature has recognized more than 275 young people from over 30 countries and 25 U.S. states.

Rylee won first prize in the 8-12 year-old age category for her projects, Promise to our Keiki, The Plastics Project, and the Hashtag Speak Up Movement.

Rylee Brooke Kamahele has launched three environment projects – Promise to our Keiki, The Plastics Project, and the Hashtag Speak Up Movement – that tackle a multitude of local conservation challenges through legislative advocacy, direct action clean up programs that have removed several tons of plastics and trash from Hawai'i's beaches, the education of tourists about being mindful visitors, the protection of endangered species, and the rescue and rehabilitation of animals. Rylee is also working to ban single-use plastic in Hawai'i by 2024.

"Kids like Rylee have shown that the next generation is refusing to simply stand on the sidelines but instead is turning its passion for helping the planet into projects that have tangible, positive impacts on the environment now," said Beryl Kay, president of Action for Nature, an international non-profit organization that encourages young people to nurture a love and respect for Earth's natural resources and to take personal action to better their environments. "Young activists like Rylee are shaping the world around them and inspiring other young people to take action to



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protect our Earth.”

“Every single program or project I create is sparked by a passion I have or experience I've gone through that called for change,” said Rylee Brooke Kamahele.

To read more about Rylee’s work, visit

actionfornature.org/eco-hero-awards/2020-awards/#rylee or check out the project website at www.promisetoourkeiki.org.

To learn more about this year’s International Young Eco-Hero Award winners, visit

actionfornature.org/eco-hero-awards/2020-awards.

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Action for Nature (AFN) is an international non-profit organization based in San Francisco, California, that encourages young people to nurture a love and respect for Earth’s natural resources and to take personal action to better their environments.