



Media Release

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“Malama na Koa”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KALAHEO HIGH SCHOOL NAVAL JROTC STUDENT, JUVIE VARELA, TO RECEIVE 6TH ANNUAL 1st LT. NAINOA HOE SCHOLARSHIP FROM BRIAN LAVIOLETTE FOUNDATION

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii—At 1:30 p.m. Friday, Kalaheo High School senior Juvie Ignacio Varela will become the sixth recipient of the annual 1st Lt. Nainoa Hoe Scholarship of Honor.

Varela earned this year’s scholarship for her outstanding academic achievements and superior leadership performance as a member of Kalaheo High School’s Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program.

The scholarship will be presented at the 1st Lt. Nainoa K. Hoe Mission Training Complex-Hawaii building located at Schofield Barracks.

The scholarship’s criteria are based upon the academic, athletic and leadership ability of a Hawaii high school student who has also exhibited a commitment to public service as a cadet in a Junior ROTC program.

The scholarship is presented to an entering Army ROTC Cadet at the University of Hawaii in honor of the legacy of service of 1st Lt. Nainoa Hoe, a 1995 Kamehameha Schools graduate from Kailua, Oahu, who attended the University of Hawaii, earning an MBA degree and receiving his commission as an Army Infantry officer through the university’s Army ROTC program in 2003.

Hoe, an Army Ranger and a fearless Infantry platoon leader, was killed on January 22, 2005 in Mosul, Iraq while leading a foot patrol urging Iraqi citizens to vote in Iraq’s first national elections. He served in the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the 25th Infantry Division, based at Ft. Lewis, Washington.

2-2-2 NAINOA HOE SCHOLARSHIP

Varela is the daughter of Julie and Victor Varela, a family with a rich legacy of military service. Her father is a career Marine NCO and her brother is an Army officer. When notified of the scholarship award, she stated, “I sincerely extend my most humble appreciation to the Brian LaViolette Scholarship Foundation as I am honored to represent Nainoa Hoe’s legacy this year. This token of recognition not only reassures me of my goals and future successes, but others like yourselves who believe my efforts are not in vain. I shall not fail.”

In addition to her Naval JROTC responsibilities, Varela is a member of the National Honor Society and participated in track and field, swimming, cross-country, Tae Kwon Do, and served as a community volunteer worker and church choir member.

“Juvie is a natural leader whom we will look to in the future for great things,” said Allen Hoe, 1st Lt. Hoe’s father. “We know that Nainoa is especially proud of this young lady who will continue his legacy.”

The \$1,000 scholarship and a special silver medallion endowed by Waimanalo businessman Ohelo Kaopio, is being awarded through the Wisconsin-based Brian LaViolette Scholarship Foundation. Since 1992 the Foundation has awarded hundreds of scholarships, in honor of fallen war heroes, to students across the United States and around the world committed to military or public service.

The Brian LaViolette Scholarship Foundation recognizes academic achievement, leadership, and community involvement—personal qualities of its namesake. The foundation was created in 1992 in the name of Brian LaViolette, who lived his life with many inspirational thoughts in mind, including the phrase “The Journey is the Reward.” Brian kept those words by his bed and captured his passion for living and his appreciation for life’s challenges. At age 15, Brian died in a swimming accident, cutting his life short as an honor student and gifted athlete who dreamed of attending college.

MEDIA NOTE: For additional information, please contact Allen Hoe, 292-6845.
To attend the ceremony, please contact Dennis Drake, 656-3154 / 226-2706.