



**Hawaiian
Electric**



NEWS RELEASE

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Results of Hawaiian Electric's State VEX Robotics Championships *Hawai'i teams qualify for 2020 VEX Worlds*

HILO, Jan. 14, 2020 – Seven high school and three middle school robotics teams earned top honors among 37 teams from Hawai'i Island, Maui, and O'ahu at Hawaiian Electric's Hawai'i State VEX Robotics Championships held Jan. 11 at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. The teams qualified to participate in the 2020 VEX World Championships to be held April 22-25 in Louisville, Kentucky.

The Excellence Award, the highest award presented in the VEX Robotics Championship, was given to **Kea'au High School, Cougar Tech Team 5968A** in the high school category, and **Highlands Intermediate School Team 394A** from Pearl City, O'ahu, in the middle school category. Both teams exemplified overall excellence in building a high-quality robotics program.

808 Robotics Team 4109A, a home-schooled team from Pearl City, O'ahu, and **Pearl City High School Team 4142A** were named the Tournament Champions. Team 4142A also earned the Design Award, which recognizes a team that demonstrates an organized and professional approach to the design process, project and time management, and team organization.

Team 4142A previously qualified for the VEX Worlds through earning the Excellence Award and Tournament Champions title at the Pan Pacific VEX EDR Championships in November. The team's overlapping wins provided **St. Louis High School Team 42700N** and **Wai'anae High School Team 359A** with invitations to the world competition based on their skills ranking scores. **Moloka'i Robotics Team 1037B** and **Wai'anae Intermediate School Team 27301A** also received invitations to the World Championships with their skills scores. This is the first time a team from Wai'anae has been invited to the VEX Worlds in only the second year the team has competed in VEX competition.

Wai'anae High & Intermediate School's Hawaiian Kids Team 359B and **Sacred Hearts Academy Lancer Robotics Team 2437A** were named the Tournament Finalists at the State VEX Championships and also qualified for the World Championships.

Through earlier Hawai'i VEX Signature Pan Pacific and the Mark Leon VEX events, **Pearl City High School Team 4142B**, **Wai'anae Intermediate School Team 38401A**, **Island Pacific Academy Team 4442X** of Kapolei, O'ahu, and **St. Louis High School Team 42700A** were also invited to the VEX World Championships.

For a full list of award recipients and team results, please visit: <https://www.robotevents.com/robot-competitions/vex-robotics-competition/RE-VRC-20-9130.html>.

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“Tower Takeover,” the 2020 VEX robotics competition challenge, required two-team alliances to compete in matches and attain a higher score than the opposing alliance by placing cubes in towers or scoring cubes in goals. The engineering challenge provides valuable life skills such as teamwork, perseverance, communication, collaboration, project management, and critical thinking.

Since 2013, Hawaiian Electric has been the presenting sponsor of the VEX Hawai'i State Robotics Championships with support from the Hawai'i Space Grant Consortium, Hawai'i VEX Organizing Committee, and hundreds of volunteers.

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