



TEAM KIKA MANA – TEAM 368

2012 HAWAII REGIONAL WOODIE FLOWERS ESSAY SUBMISSION

Mr. Osa Tui

Since his joining in 2005, he has become a pillar of strength and stability as well as a familiar figure throughout the years. He has always provided students with everything he could give, gone above and beyond the expectations as a mentor, and pushes us to go past our limits to succeed. It is with great honor that we nominate Mr. Osa Tui for the Woodie Flowers Award for his excellence in mentorship.

A former Calculus teacher, Mr. Tui is currently the registrar at McKinley High School. He came to join us after our founder, Mr. Lau, started a family and was no longer able to contribute his time. Mr. Lau's absence left a significant lack of leadership, a responsibility which Mr. Tui shouldered to keep the team going. Since then, Mr. Tui has proven to be a great advisor; thanks to his perseverance, the team was able to get much of the machinery that we use to fabricate our own, as well as other teams' parts.

We are especially lucky to have his dedication: he not only stays at the shop late into the night, Mr. Tui is the Volunteer Coordinator for the Hawaii Regional, where he won the Outstanding Volunteer Award in 2009. Senior Michelle Wu says, "Mr. Tui works so hard and he's always there for us in so many ways, whether it's tutoring in math, giving advice, running competitions, or giving up his own time so that we can come in to work. He's always ready to help out however he can."

From volunteering at different events to pitching in on robot design, Mr. Tui is a crucial part of our team. He makes sure that we are able to teach other FRC teams skills that we have learned and also emphasizes the importance of being an effective communicator both in and out of Robotics. Aside from fulfilling his role as team administrator, he makes the Robotics shop feel like home by helping to keep things fun and engaging with his witty humor.

Mr. Tui's care for us on a personal level allows him to assess our individual skills and needs so he can help us to grow accordingly while making sure that we are also able to find our own solutions and think independently in the future. He has given us the skills necessary to make tough decisions using our own judgment and think quickly on our feet. Although not an engineer himself, Mr. Tui effortlessly inspires students with his devotion toward Robotics. "I had my mind set on being an English professor. Before the FRC season started, I became a captain because Mr. Tui recognized something in me, for which I am grateful. Due to my involvement in Robotics, I've decided to pursue engineering and wouldn't dream of doing anything else; his decision to trust me was life changing," Captain Bo-Bae Kim explains.

Mr. Tui's seamless integration of the motto "Gracious Professionalism" into our daily lives, coupled with his love for our team, shows in everything that he does for us and for FIRST as a whole and we are truly blessed to be able to call him part of the Team Kika Mana family.