



STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU 'ĀINA O HAWAII'

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNE LOPEZ ANNOUNCES HAWAII WINNER
OF NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY POSTER CONTEST
PROMOTING CHILD SAFETY**

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HONOLULU – Hawaii Attorney General Anne Lopez proudly announces that Hilina'i Kahale, a fifth grader from Pū'ōhala Elementary in Kāne'ohe, was selected as the Hawaii state winner of the 42nd Annual National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest. This nationwide contest promotes awareness and engages students, parents, guardians and teachers in discussions about child safety and preventing incidents of lost, runaway and abducted children.

Since 1983, the U.S. Department of Justice commemorates [National Missing Children's Day](#) on May 25 by honoring the heroic and exemplary efforts of agencies, organizations and individuals to protect children.

The Department of the Attorney General's Missing Child Center - Hawaii (MCCH) serves as the State Contest Manager for the U.S. Department of Justice's annual National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest with the theme "Bringing Our Missing Children Home."

“The picture shows a girl crying because she misses her family. Her tears make a big puddle showing how many other kids are missing and just want to feel safe and loved,” writes Hawai‘i fifth grader Hilina‘i Kahale describing her poster. Aside from her artistic talent and passion for this cause, Hilina‘i enjoys playing hockey and speaking Hawaiian.

“I congratulate and thank Hilina‘i for shining a light on child safety through her creative artwork and powerful message of love, hope and awareness,” says Attorney General Lopez. “Preventing incidents of missing and abducted children through education and community outreach is fundamental to the mission of our Department’s Missing Child Center - Hawai‘i (MCCH). National Missing Children’s Day is a reminder to strengthen our efforts and honor the exemplary service of the law enforcement officers and child protection professionals whose work helps to protect missing children and bring predators to justice.”

“Hilina‘i’s artwork reminds us that even our youngest students have something powerful to say about serious issues,” Department of Education Superintendent Keith Hayashi said. “Through creativity and compassion, our students are helping to spark conversations that keep children safer and communities stronger. We’re proud to support learning that extends beyond the classroom and into the heart of real-world challenges.”

“Congratulations Hilina‘i and thank you to all of the fifth grade contest participants for raising awareness, sharing your personal stories, and spreading the word about ways to keep kids and communities safe,” says MCCH Coordinator Amanda Leonard, who oversees the state’s MAILE AMBER Alert program. “Child abductions are rare, but these incidents can be life-threatening.”

Leonard went on to say, “The MCCH works closely with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) to track and analyze attempted abductions and trends, locally and nationally, to prevent child abductions in our state. Public awareness, education and reporting are necessary to thwart a tragedy. If you believe your child was the victim of an attempted abduction, please report it to the police as soon as possible.”

The 42nd Annual National Missing Children’s Day commemoration took place in Washington, D.C., on May 21, 2025. More information on non-family attempted abduction trends and tips for parents and children is available at the following webpages:

- [Non-family Abductions & Attempts](#)
- [Analysis of Attempted Abduction Trends](#)
- [KidSmartz](#)

Anyone with information regarding missing children or the exploitation of children is encouraged to contact your local police department or the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678).

Hilina'i's award-winning drawing can be seen [here](#).

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