



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 27, 2009

ISLAND AIR Graduates First Class of Student Explorers

HONOLULU – As committed back in May 2008, Island Air has completed its first year of aviation explorer sessions under the guidance of Boy Scouts of America. The carrier revived the program that Aloha Airlines ran for many years prior to shutting down in March 2008. Island Air's first graduating class consisted of 18 students from various Oahu public and private schools. Their graduation ceremony was held before family and friends on Wednesday, April 22, at the Honolulu Airport.

Island Air also carried on Aloha's tradition of honoring one outstanding student explorer with the Jamie Wagatsuma Award. In 2008, Aloha named the outstanding explorer award after Wagatsuma, a former pilot of Aloha and Island Air who served as head advisor in Aloha's program. She lost her battle with cancer in November 2007.

Island Air presented the award to Robson Ah Puck, a 17-year old aspiring pilot. Said Ah Puck of his experience, "I greatly enjoyed the program because it had taught me what I really wanted to learn about: the airline industry and what it takes to become a pilot. The advisors showed they really cared for us students and our futures. I think other students would find the program valuable because you get to spend time with the people who do this for a living, observe first-hand what goes on during airline operations, participate in a hands-on learning environment, and gain a deeper understanding of the different aspects of the airline business."

Island Air congratulates its first graduation class of Aviation Student Explorers:

Robson Ah Puck, Kahuku High School
Sonny Ah Puck III, Kapiolani Community College
Miana Anama, Sacred Hearts Academy
Sean Bresnan, Kaiser High School
Fernando Corrales, Farrington High School
Punahale Dalde, Mililani High School
Raycherie DePonte, Farrington High School
Jermaine Jacob, Waianae High School
Carissa Jeffery, Le Jardin Academy
Kania Keiko, Farrington High School
Daniel Lum, Castle High School
Naomi Martin, Windward Community College
Breanne Naone, Mililani High School

Arri Nguyen, Kalani High School
Alohalani Pa'akaula-Lozier, Kamehameha Schools
Joeane Soriano, Farrington High School
Cheyne Taum, Kamehameha Schools
Regina Vave, Sacred Hearts Academy

Island Air's head advisor, Cory Kohler, said, "Besides the joy of watching the students' interest in aviation grow as the program progressed, our group of volunteer employees have also learned more about each other's jobs and we've become a close-knit group after working together on this project. Going forward, I think our customers will see a better synergized operation and I've got to credit the explorer program for the experience and the unexpected rewards we are now starting to realize." Island Air intends to continue the program in 2010. Interested students are encouraged to check for updates on Island Air's web site and from their school career counselor.

Island Air is Hawai'i's leading regional carrier, serving airports on all major Hawaiian Islands. Founded in 1980 to provide scheduled service between Princeville and Honolulu, the airline now offers 390 weekly flights between the islands of O'ahu (Honolulu International Airport), Maui (Kahului Airport and West Maui's Kapalua Airport), Moloka'i (Ho'olehua Airport), Lana'i (Lana'i City Airport), Kaua'i (Lihue Airport), and the Island of Hawai'i (Hilo International Airport and Kona International Airport). Island Air is committed to its island communities as well as providing warm and personalized service for its customers and those of its code-share partners: Continental Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, Mesa Air Group, and United Airlines. For reservations, flight information, and free membership in Island Air's Cloud 9 Customer Rewards Program, visit www.islandair.com.

####

Reservations 1 800 652-6541 | islandair.com