



Posted on: Thursday, February 14, 2008

'Aiea girl takes Central title

By [Lynda Arakawa](#)
Advertiser Central Oahu Writer

Kimberly Chun, an eighth-grader at Our Savior Lutheran School in 'Aiea, won the Central O'ahu District spelling bee last night and will move on to the state spelling contest.

Beating out more than two dozen other contestants in the competition at Moanalua Middle School, Chun correctly spelled "mootable" and "mikado" to clinch the title.

It was the second year Chun has competed in the district bee, and this time she made sure to ask more questions during the contest. She also studied more, practicing during lunchtime and after school for the last couple of weeks.

"I really wanted to go to states, because you get to learn more," said Chun, daughter of Marcus and Susan Jean Chun. "You learn all those words, and it's a new experience every time."

Chun's teacher and spelling coach, Margaret Ulm, said Chun takes her work seriously.

"She will make a huge effort to make sure that she puts 110 percent into it," Ulm said. "She wants to learn words at the same time. ... She'll go that extra effort to look it up and make sure that she understands the definition of the word. I think that's the most important thing in the spelling bee."

Chun and runner-up Ramil Lorenzo Gonzalez, a Mililani Middle School seventh-grader, will advance to The Advertiser's 23rd annual Hawai'i State Spelling Bee on March 16. It will be televised on Oceanic cable channel 16.

The state winner will get a trip to Washington, D.C., to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee on May 29 and 30.

Here are the district winners so far and the remaining bees:

- **Kaua'i District**, winner Annalisa Hartsell (Waimea Canyon Middle School) and runner-up Keala Lopez (Kapa'a Middle School).
- **Honolulu District**, winner Jen Rasay (Kalakaua Middle School) and runner-up Angelina Yick (Iolani School).
- **Windward District**, winner Andrew Dau (St. Ann's Model School) and runner-up Malia Smith (St. Anthony Parish School).
- **Central District**, winner Kimberly Chun (Our Savior Lutheran School) and runner-up Ramil Lorenzo Gonzalez (Mililani Middle School).
- **Today:** Maui District, 'Iao Intermediate School, 5:30 p.m.
- **Feb. 22:** Leeward District, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 6 p.m.
- **Feb. 23:** Hawai'i District, Kealakehe Intermediate School, 1 p.m.

Reach Lynda Arakawa at larakawa@honoluluadvertiser.com.

[Back](#)

© COPYRIGHT 2008 The Honolulu Advertiser, a division of [Gannett Co.](#) Inc.

All materials contained on this site are protected by United States copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, published or broadcast without the prior written permission of The Honolulu Advertiser. You may not alter or remove any trademark, copyright or other notice from copies of the content.