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Rene Kimura wins aerospace honor

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Rene Kimura, at far right, poses with Waiakea students and students from Iran at the International Super Science Fair in Kyoto, Japan, last year.

Rene Kimura, an education specialist with the University of Hawaii's Hawaii Space Grant Consortium, has won the 2011 national Women in Aerospace Educator Award.

Nominated by educator astronaut Barbara Morgan and NASA administrator Alan Ladwig, Kimura was recognized for "excellent leadership and sustained dedication to aerospace education and for her tenacious advocacy for girls and young women in aerospace." She will be honored Nov. 1 in Arlington, Va.

Morgan said Kimura is a perfect role model for women, an excellent veteran educator who has devoted the past 24 years of her 43-year career to the field.

"Through her leadership and dedication, Rene has opened doors for thousands of students and fellow teachers to excel in aerospace-related educational endeavors," said Morgan. "With her philosophy of 'one student, one teacher at a time' and her unwavering commitment to community and empowering others, Rene has developed a statewide network of (people) who share the common goal of inspiring the next generation through the context of aerospace."

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