



Aloha Teachers,

This is an invitation for your school to participate in the 2019-2020 ESU National Shakespeare Competition. On the [ESU 2019-2020 National Shakespeare Competition Page](#) you can find important links to items such as the [2020 School Participation Form](#), 2020 Teacher Handbook (coming soon), the [2020 Monologue Packet](#) and the [2020 Sonnet Packet](#). If your school plans to participate, please fill out and submit the [online participation form](#).

The Hawaii segment of the ESU National Shakespeare Competition, during which Hawaii's school competition winners compete for a chance to represent Hawaii in the national competition in New York City, will be held (beginning at 1:00 p.m.) on Saturday, February 29, 2020 at Luke Auditorium in the Punahou School's Wo International Center.

Many of you are familiar with the competition from years past, but if you are a new school-level competition coordinator, here's a little history. Since 1982, the English-Speaking Union (ESU) National Shakespeare Competition has partnered with teachers to make Shakespeare's work come alive. This unique, performance-based education program provides students with multiple points of entry to engage with rigorous material and practice essential skills such as critical thinking and close reading. High school students from across the country read, analyze, perform and recite Shakespearean monologues and sonnets. In the thirty-seven year history of the competition, the ESU has helped educators empower nearly 350,000 students to create and convey their own unique perspectives to a live audience.

The competition progresses through three qualifying stages.

- Ninth through twelfth graders are eligible to participate in a school-wide competition (provided they have not been paid for performing during the current school year).

2019 ESU National Shakespeare Competition Invitation

- The school winner then advances to a competition held at the local ESU Branch.
- Branch winners will travel, all expenses paid, to New York City for the national competition.

In 2019, finalists performed on one of the stages of the world-famous Lincoln Center Theater, and Iolani student Mariko Jurcsak advanced to the final round of the top ten competitors! To learn more, be sure to visit the [ESU 2019-2020 National Shakespeare Competition Page](#).

To see a list of past winners of the Hawaii Branch Competition, go to [this page](#) on the ESU Hawaii site. Since 2011, Hawaii has had three national champions.

National Competition Dates and Prizes

- The competition finals in New York City are tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 27th, 2020. (Location and date will be confirmed in early 2020.)
- Prizes have not been finalized and are yet to be confirmed. Prizes for 2019 were:
 - 1st place: British American Drama Academy Mid-summer Conservatory Program
 - 2nd place: American Shakespeare Center Theatre Camp
 - 3rd place: \$500.

If your school has not taken part in our competition, we hope you will consider offering this exciting educational opportunity at your school this year. The 2020 Teacher Handbook (coming soon) will include everything you need to get your students ready including:

- Conditions of school participation
- Organization of classroom and school competitions and supplies
- Judging materials
- Lesson Plans
- Connection to national standards.

To past participants we extend our deep appreciation for your dedication, both to your students and to this program. We look forward to working with you to make 2020 our best competition ever!