

# FIRST robotics launched

Students compete for the first time in the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology robotics competition

By Deborah Manog

Six to seven weeks to design, build, and engineer a robot operated by radio signals to travel around an area the size of a basketball field. Have it successfully lift up and catapult a 40-inch diameter ball over a six-foot high bridge. Create a website to chronologically document the progress of the team and their robot online.

This was the task given to the participants of the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Competition. Science teacher Bebi Davis was able to secure a \$6,000 grant from National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in order to register a team from Farrington High School (FHS) to participate. Other sponsors helped FHS with at least \$3,500 to pay for the costly robot parts.

"The first week we were lost, we didn't know what the parts were," said senior Julian Yuen, team captain of the FHS FIRST Robotics team.

The team was able to get started with the help of Radford High School's FIRST Robotics team, where they met Warren Naai, a Nuclear Engineer from Pearl Harbor Navy Shipyard.

"He (Naai) came to help everyday. He was the soul of the robotics team," said Davis.

A team of students was headed under the guidance of advisors Davis and Bob Miller, construction academy teacher. They went to work every day after school and some weekends.

The last weeks before the deadline for the robot to be completed was crunch time for the students, who even stayed up till 2:30 in the morning working.

"It may take your life away, but we (the team) have a sense of accomplishment," said senior Salvador Pagaduan.

Senior Sheville Lee joined the



PHOTO BY DEBORAH MANOG

*Seniors (left to right) Salvador Pagaduan and Julian Yuen attach the arm to the frame of the robot afterschool in S7 afterschool.*

team because it was something new to her.

"I still don't know what to do for college, so I'm looking for what I want," said Lee.

With this experience, however, she realized that she enjoys building and may want to pursue it in the future.

The team nicknamed themselves and the robot as the "Governor and Governor Ohana." They felt that so much work was put into this, that the students sang the alma mater as

the robot was being placed in the crate to ship off to the Mainland to be judged and then brought back for competition.

The regional competition will take place from March 27-28 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Stan Sheriff Center.

The winning team will receive the opportunity to participate in the national competition held in Atlanta. Teams will be judged on the performance of their robot as well as on their respective websites.