

Track Ghost Particles at Ward Warehouse

Halloween at Ward Warehouse is for ghosts and ghost particles! Did you know you are showered 24/7 by invisible particles with names like muon, neutrino, pion and kaon? While they pass through our bodies undetected, these ghostly visitors from outer space leave tracks in special detectors. On Saturday, October 28, from 1pm to 4pm, an exhibit of cosmic ray detectors will be set up at Ward Center Mall to collect Hawaii data.

Members of QuarkNet, a national collaboration of high school teachers and physicists, will be available to answer questions about the detectors and will provide information about some of these extraterrestrial particles. You will be able to see the detectors collecting information about these particles and the actual tracks they leave behind in a cloud chamber.

The local team includes Professor Michael Jones, University of Hawaii at Manoa; Johannes Adams, Punahou School; Selene Cadirao, Maryknoll High School; Martha Dang, Sacred Hearts Academy; Peter Grach, Kamehameha High School; Mike Weber, Brigham Young University-Hawaii; Aaron Tominaga, Pearl City High School; and Derek Minakami, Sarah Perry, and Heidi Unten, all from Kailua High School.

With classroom detectors high school students are studying the nature of this “invisible world” which leads to better understanding of the visible world. So, while you may or may not believe in ghosts—come check out the “ghost particles” tracked by QuarkNet. They ARE of GREAT interest to physicists across the globe. Who knows . . . maybe your interest will be captured as well!

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