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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
KONA BREWING CO. BREWS NATION'S FIRST-PLACE HOMEBREW PORTER

Kailua-Kona, Hawaii's Big Island — Kona Brewing Company's brewstaff on Hawaii's Big Island recently invited America's Homebrewer of the Year Rod Romanak into its brewery to recreate his award-winning "Positively Porter." Romanak was proclaimed Homebrewer of the Year at the American Homebrewers Association's National Homebrew Competition in June 2004.

"We were very proud of Rod when we found out he had been honored as the best homebrewer in the U.S.," said Kona Brewing Company director of brewery operations Rich Tucciarone. "It was a pleasure to brew with Rod and recreate his award-winning recipe!"

Romanak's porter claimed the first-place medal in the robust porter category at the competition. Then it went on to be declared the best homebrew beer submitted in all categories — some 4,443 homemade beers were submitted by 1,058 homebrewers in 46 states and three countries.

"Positively Porter" is a dark, smooth beer, strong in roasted malt flavor and aroma with roasted coffee overtones and a slight taste of ripe-figs, a character imparted by the extra special malt used in the brew. Romanak is the president of the Kona Coast Barley Boys homebrew club in Kailua-Kona on Hawaii's Big Island.

"Next to getting the award in Las Vegas among fellow homebrewers, being asked to brew my beer at Kona Brewing Company was one of the greatest honors," said Romanak. "To go from brewing one half of a barrel to 20 barrels is overwhelming. Kona Brewing Company's brewstaff did an amazing job of bringing in the exact specialty grains and whole hop flowers to duplicate my recipe."

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A batch totaling 20 barrels of "Positively Porter" was brewed in early January and is being tapped up exclusively at Kona Brewing Company's two restaurants on the Big Island and Oahu.

"Hawaii's homebrewers are some of our most loyal customers. We've always valued their feedback and support," continued Tucciarone. "It was great fun to be able to scale up Rod's 'Positively Porter' recipe and now, let all our customers try it. I'm *positive* this is going to be a popular beer at our bar!"

Kona Brewing Company ranks 51st out of the nation's 1,465 breweries in terms of beer production and sales. The beer is distributed throughout the Hawaiian Islands, in Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington and Japan. For information call 808-334-BREW or visit www.KonaBrewingCo.com.

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Editor: Electronic images of Rod Romanak brewing his award-winning porter at Kona Brewing Company are available by contacting Wendy Tucciarone, wendyt@hawaii.rr.com.