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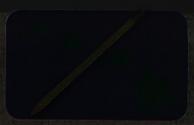
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ONE SMALL STEP FOR KEIKI



Kevin Caruso, kneeling, deploys an air compressor to inflate Hilo Union School fourth-grader Tatsutani's NASA spacesuit until he looks like the Pillsbury Doughboy. At left, teachers Erin Kaneko and Donna Banks take pictures. The demonstration before Kaneko's 20 students was part of a presentation on "Building a Human Presence in Space" by Caruso, a Chicago-based electrical engineer. He was among some 50 astronomers and technical personnel from the Mauna Kea Observatories interacting with more than 8,000 Big Island students during this week's 6th annual Journey Through the Universe. Caruso's talk included hands-on demonstrations about gravity and rocket launching.

Erin Kaneko's fourth-graders react as 20 plastic film canisters rain down upon the classroom after a simultaneous tabletop launch moments before. The tiny missles were powered by the explosive fizz of Alka-Seltzer tablets and water.



Photos by WILLIAM ING/ Tribune-Herald



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