



Kaua`i Youth & Food

2015 Annual Programs Report



Supported by:

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Kokua Hawai`i Foundation | Johnson 'Ohana Foundation | Hawai'i People's Fund | Hawai'i Community Foundation

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Kaua`i School Garden Network ~ Youth & Food Programs

The Kaua`i School Garden Network was established in 2010 and supports all schools, PreK-12, on the island of Kaua`i. We provide funding and in-kind donations, technical and volunteer support for school gardens, local food in local schools and school sustainability efforts. Since 2006, Malama Kaua`i has increased access to local food, propagation materials and agriculturally related educational opportunities for local residents and visitors. In 2015, we began scaling our impact and more effectively implementing system level solutions at the regional and island-wide level, creating a new program area umbrella now titled *Youth & Food* to more accurately describe our work. We also welcomed 2 new AmeriCorps VISTAs to our team, providing island wide coverage for our Youth & Food programs:



Sara Hopps, Kaua`i Complex



Katie Cannon, Kapa`a Complex



Tiona Miyamoto, Waimea Complex

Our 2015 Impact

- Raised over \$106,754 in funding and \$11,127 in in-kind donations for KSGN & its school garden programs
- Helped to start 7 new school/after school program gardens, supported 18 school garden programs, and donated over 793 plants and trees to schools
- Donated 9,409 pounds of fresh fruit & veg to 9 schools, afterschool programs, and food banks utilizing over 267 volunteer hours from Master Gardeners and the general community, as well as 12 donor sites
- Assisted in executing 352 individual volunteer sessions with over 870 volunteer hours committed to school gardens and food programs
- Organized 2 curriculum trainings for Project Learning Tree and Kokua Hawai`i Foundations' 'Aina in Schools which provided 57 educators with standards-based lessons on school gardens, natural resources, composting/recycling, and nutrition
- Created a [Natural Resources Career Pathway Guide](#), a resource directory of community organizations and their offerings to schools and students, and distributed to school staff
- Provided 16 middle school through college students with hands-on agriculture & food systems internships, and 78 students with educational field trips to Malama Kaua`i's Community Farm

Annual School Garden Survey Results

We continued collecting responses to the KSGN Annual Survey, based off of the Hawai'i School Garden Hui survey to assess school needs. 21 K-12 schools and afterschool programs that completed the survey in 2014 and 2015.

- 67% have a school garden; out of the 27 total schools and afterschool programs on Kaua'i, we're only aware of 9 that do not have a school garden of some form.
- 24% are currently implementing, and 52% are interested in implementing, food safety training for students, teachers, & volunteers; HI School Garden HUI will be releasing a School Garden Safety Packet & Training for Schools in 2016.
- 24% of schools & afterschool programs surveyed currently incorporate local food into their school meal program, although another 57% would like to.
- The most commonly identified needs in school garden programs, in order of importance, were: Volunteer Help, Funding, Garden Coordinator/Staff, & Program Sustainability.
- Most important to the plans and vision of school garden programs were: Curricular Integration, Program Sustainability, Cultivate Sustainability Awareness, & Involve All Students.

New School Gardens



Kanuikapono PCS, Anahola -

Two gardens were installed at Kanu this year: an in-ground garden used for the elementary grades' 'Ike 'Aina class that was created during our first Gardening Certificate Training, and an aquaponics system for the high schoolers that was funded by a Kokua Hawai'i Foundation grant. Through their new culinary program, students harvest and prepare food from the garden to feed their fellow peers once a week.

Waimea High School, Waimea -

Waimea High School's impressive *Waimea Aloha Garden* was a well-concerted effort between a wide variety of community groups and volunteers including Master Gardeners, led by Instructor Greg Harding. Highlighting orchards, aquaponics systems, and both farming and gardening spaces, it just may be the biggest school garden so far on Kaua'i!



Ke Kula Ni'ihau O Kekaha, Kekaha -

As a part of KKNOK's new school food program, funded by the Kekaha Host Community Benefit Program, a campus-wide garden is being created including fruit trees, a Hawaiian garden, taro fenceline, greenhouse, and more. Foods produced on campus will be utilized in the school meal program. We also gave out over 300 'ulu, taro, and mai'a plants and trees to the school and families in the community thanks to the David Boynton Educational Foundation.

Kalaheo Elementary, Kalaheo -

Thanks to Merriman's Restaurant, we were able to complete a school-wide edible landscaping and gardening project. Each grade "adopted" a different area of the garden, which included dozens of trees, raised bed gardens, and a Hawaiian garden. Students will take on the kuleana to care for their selected area and have the opportunity to take home produce or use in class.



Kawaikini PCS, Lihue -

At Kawaikini Hawaiian Immersion School, a 5,600 sq. ft. fenced-in garden area and orchard was installed for hands-on learning to compliment the interdisciplinary curriculum for elementary and high school students, as well as providing fresh fruits and vegetables to the school lunch program being established through the National School Lunch Program. The garden was developed as a part of our Gardening Certificate Training led by Dr. Adam Asquith of Kealia Farms, which was sponsored by Kokua Hawai'i Foundation, KIUC, Johnson 'Ohana Foundation, & Kaua'i Beer Co.

Kaua'i High School, Lihue -

Starting with Hawai'i Community Foundation's Giving Grove 'ulu planting project, we worked with new Natural Resources Instructor Craig to install the school's mini fruit and food tree orchard to kickstart their gardening program. We installed 8 bananas, mountain apple, dragonfruit, and 'ulu trees that the kids will use for their culinary class and snacks.



Vermicomposting Pilot Project



To address campus waste issues while connecting to STEM-based gardening curriculum, we partnered with Connect 5 Kids & Sunset Cinema to run a small Worm Grant mini-grant program that awarded worm composting systems to 3 schools: Kilauea Elementary, Waimea Canyon Middle School, & Waimea High School. Systems included a large worm bin, ¼ lb. of worms, paper shredder, *Worms Eat Our Waste* curriculum book, and a vermiculture lesson for students from Connect 5 Kids. The school with the most participating classrooms, Waimea High School, was also awarded a free movie night at their school. Schools will be reporting back on how the system worked for their school, so we can discover the potential for expansion of this program and best practices to pass on to future vermiculture sites.

Gardening Certificate Training

This program was developed to provide training to teachers, parents and community members on gardening while installing a school garden, so that schools can adequately maintain the gardens themselves. Garden training was by far the number one request by teachers in the 2012 statewide survey conducted by the Hawai'i School Garden Hui (the network of all HI school gardens).

In 2015, we delivered two 5-week Gardening Certificate Training courses, which 56 total participants attended, while installing beautiful school gardens at Kanuikapono Public Charter School in Anahola and Kawaikini Public Charter School in Lihue. Volunteers from the classes are supporting the schools' gardening programs and using the knowledge gained from classes to better the community.



School Food Programs



Our current goal within this area is to assist Hawaiian-focused Public Charter Schools on Kaua'i with their capacity to deliver a consistent, nutritious and culturally appropriate food program to their students. In 2015, we assisted Ke Kula Ni'ihau O Kekaha in developing, funding, and delivering a comprehensive and Federally-reimbursed breakfast, lunch, and snack program at their school. We also provided fresh fruit for snacks to all four charters and developed school gardens at three of the schools, which will help to supplement fresh snack programs.

Next, we are working with Kawaikini PCS to support their school food program rollout and KANAKA PCS on installing their school garden, with a long-term vision of creating a truly community-based, localized food procurement process and food system within the schools. We've chosen to partner with these four schools because they are the most underserved (have no food service), have less bureaucratic systems and policies than DOE schools, and have demonstrated a strong commitment to providing local food in their schools. To continue to service DOE schools in 2015, we partnered with the Hawaii Child Nutrition Program (HCNP) to help schools on Kaua'i implement their Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program (FFVP). In 2016, we'll be looking to assist more schools in obtaining funding to start FFVP at their school.

Village Harvest

Through a partnership with UH CTAHR's Kaua'i Master Gardener Program and HMSA Foundation, we launched Village Harvest in September 2014, which harvests and delivers unutilized fresh produce to those who need it. From the start of the program through the end of 2015, we captured and provided a total of 12,374 lbs of produce and delivered to 9 schools, afterschool programs, and food banks. We also utilized produce in nutrition education lessons at several schools and afterschool programs. Village Harvest utilized approximately 503 volunteer hours from Master Gardeners and various community members, and received fruit and vegetables from 12 different donor sites, including Malama Kaua'i's Community Farm, KCC's Go Farm program, CTAHR's orchards, Moloa'a Organica'a, and other farms/residents.



Ag Camp & Internship Pilots



We're all aware that the average age of a farmer in Hawai'i is 59 years old, but after releasing our [Natural Resources Career Pathway Guide](#), we recognized critical gaps in educational opportunities for hands-on farming experience and internships available for early-career development and mentorship. According to Keiki to Career Kaua'i's 2014 Kaua'i Youth Report, only 24.7% of Kaua'i youth aged 16-19 are employed. In 2013, only 82.0% of Kaua'i 16-24 year-olds were in school and/or employed. This rate is notably lower than the statewide average of 87.3% and also lower than the U.S. average of 85.4%.

The [2013 Hawai'i Agricultural Skill Panel Report](#) also made a clear call to action to: create and strengthen high school internship and college mentorship programs; and to engage in mentoring students

by people with experience with new farmers, specifically on Kaua'i. The #1 workforce challenge identified on Kaua'i was the disconnect between educational institutions and the agriculture industry. For these reasons, and others, we've decided to invest our resources into farming career development opportunities for youth and young adults to provide them with meaningful job experiences in agriculture.

Throughout 2015 we hosted 6 unpaid interns on our Community Farm; from middle school to post-college ages. For Winter Break in December we launched two different pilots to provide career exploration, skills development, and mentorship opportunities for high school students around agriculture. A 3-day Ag Camp at Malama Kaua'i Community Farm in Kilauea was advertised to central, east, and north sides of the island; as well as a 3-day paid Ag Internship program through IWI Farms & KUGA Agriculture in Waimea, which were offered to Waimea High School and Ke Kula Ni'ihau o Kekaha students. The camp had to be canceled due to lack of interest, but the paid Ag Internship had 10 participants. We originally only had funding for 4 students from Hawai'i People's Fund, but KUGA Agriculture and Koke'e Lodge made donations that helped fund all 10 participants. A complete report on the program is available on our website.

Community Farm

Aside from hosting interns at our farm throughout the year, we also hosted 78 children on field trips to the farm for hands-on outdoor education opportunities. We expanded our greenhouse space to propagate plants and trees for school garden installs and began developing an 8,000 sq. ft. Youth Garden to deliver interactive agricultural educational experiences for school field trips, camps, kids workshops, and special events.



Statewide

As a member of the Hawai'i School Garden & Farm-to-School HUI, we worked with community organizations across the state to successfully secure a position within the Department of Agriculture for a Farm-to-School Coordinator. Hawai'i is now the 20th state to create a state-level Farm to School Program. Join us in welcoming Robyn Pfahl Hawai'i's new DoA Farm to School Coordinator! Robyn is a local food policy advocate and procurement policy specialist wielding agricultural business and law degrees to facilitate increased connections between Hawaiian farms, community resources, and keiki health. Robyn is tasked with establishing and implementing a farm to school program per Act 218 (SLH 2015); coordinating various public and private stakeholders; addressing issues of supply, demand, procurement, and consumption of Hawai'i-grown foods in state facilities (primarily educational); and incorporating more agricultural and nutritional education in schools.

2016 Youth & Food Program Goals

We're excited to see that our *farm-to-school* efforts in the Kaua'i School Garden Network have amplified with great support from the community and institutions since starting in 2010. With the infusion of AmeriCorps VISTA support, we're aiming to create self-sustainable systems for schools so we can confidently transition schools into programmatic sustainability by 2018. Strategically, we are directing our efforts at the next level for *Youth & Food* programs: localized school food systems, experiential education, and *school-to-farm* career & workforce development.

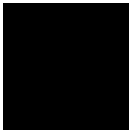
- ***Kaua'i School Garden Network:*** To deliver 2 educator trainings with 50+ participants, to grow participation and use of standards-based gardening curriculum in Kaua'i schools; and to install at least 5 new gardens in Kaua'i schools - possible partnerships include Koloa Elementary, Kaua'i High, Kilauea Elementary, Kapa'a Elementary, and KANAKA PCS.
- ***Gardening Certificate Trainings:*** To host 2 5-week gardening courses at schools & community gardens, with at least 40 total graduates, to provide training to the community, create new educational garden sites, and develop community food resources.
- ***Hawaiian Charter School Food Program:*** To develop a comprehensive school food plan for Kawaikini PCS and a school garden for KANAKA PCS, while continuing to assist all schools in building their capacity through fresh snack programs, garden installations, technical assistance, and general support.
- ***Village Harvest:*** To deliver over 15,000 pounds of fresh produce to 12+ schools, afterschool programs, and food banks, utilizing over 600 volunteer hours and an AmeriCorps VISTA to build the program's capacity and sustainability; begin to build 5 gleaning programs to take over program by 2018.
- ***Ag Internships:*** To provide 100 weeks of paid internships to high school and college aged students on select farms across the island, to provide positive career exploration, personal development, and mentorship opportunities for teens & young adults.
- ***Community Farm:*** To expand our Community Farm in ways that will grow support for Youth & Food programs including the creation of *Keiki on the Farm* activities and expanded educational field trips in the *Youth Garden*, and creating a more comprehensive nursery/greenhouse for school garden plant propagation.

We're looking forward to a bright 2016, but need your support!

Please consider making a donation or continued commitment to our Youth & Food Programs in 2016.

Mahalos

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David Spalding Boynton Educational Fund | Garden.org

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