



## RESOURCE RECOVERY • KA'OHĀO PROTOCOL

A partnership of Windward schools working cooperatively in the pursuit of waste reduction, soil restoration, and applied environmental education. All members participate annually in the U.S. EPA's Food Recovery Challenge and adhere to strict, safe, standardized operational procedures.

### SUMMARY • OCTOBER 2017

News anchor **Stephanie Lum** from **Hawaii News Now KHNL/KGMB** visited late in October, planning to devote a couple of hours reporting on what she thought was a cute little school recycling project. Stephanie ended up spending the entire day with us on two campuses, stunned by the size, scope, and impact of our operation. "This is a much bigger and more important story than I anticipated," she said, "and I need to come back." A second visit with Ms. Lum and a cameraman is scheduled for early next month. Stay tuned.

#### KA'OHĀO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

Start: January 2014 • Number of students: 330 • Annual food waste: 8.5 tons • Food waste collection: 100% cafeteria lunch and campus-wide snacks • Other: 98% HI-5 cans and bottles, green waste, paper, cardboard, mylar • Technologies: thermal composting, vermicomposting, bokashi

Food waste recovered: 1,723 pounds. The first finished compost pile of the school year was harvested in October by 4th graders, yielding 28 boxes. Although hot compost harvesting has been the kuleana of 4th graders since 2015, this year's class was the first to receive academic units covering the science of composting in Grade 3, including the infamous Invertebrate Invitational (speed dating with bugs). The difference in student behavior during the activity was significant – they were calm, focused, comfortable, knowledgeable, and a joy to work with. The time and trouble required to offer the 3rd Grade composting lessons is truly worth the effort.

#### KA'ELEPULU ELEMENTARY

Start: August 2016 • Number of students: 201 • Annual food waste: 9.2 tons • Food waste collection: 100% cafeteria breakfast and lunch • Other: 100% HI-5 cans and bottles, some green waste • Technologies: thermal composting, vermicomposting

Food waste recovered: 1,492 pounds. Ka'elepulu also conducted their first student hot compost harvest of the school year with all 5th graders participating, yielding 19 boxes of high-quality product. The new garden has exploded with corn, tomatoes, squash, lettuces, beans, watermelon, and more, with classes from every grade level visiting to weed and water daily. "The 6th graders are even coming early in the morning before school to work their beds," notes Principal Mr. Dela Cruz.

#### KAINALU ELEMENTARY

Start: January 2017 • Number of students: 463 • Annual food waste: 14 tons • Food waste collection: 100% cafeteria breakfast and lunch • Other: 100% HI-5 cans and bottles • Technologies: thermal composting, vermicomposting

Food waste recovered: 3,312 pounds. The Malama 'Aina Discovery Area outdoor classroom was completed this month with the installation of an attractive canopy and wood wall for the posting of data logs, posters, and other informational material. The first of twelve finished hot compost piles was harvested by members of the Compost Club. Of the yield numbering 24 boxes, some was sold, some was stored, and several boxes were claimed by the custodial crew for campus landscaping restoration.

#### COMBINED OCTOBER 2017 TOTALS

Four-week period from Oct. 2 through Nov. 3, 2017. Includes 20 school days (Fall Break Oct. 9-13).

Total students participating daily: **1,002**

Total food waste recovered in October: **6,527 pounds**

**2017 total to date: 53,446 pounds (26.7tons)**

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