



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 • FEBRUARY 2018

Legislative Action • Thanks to Lindsey Whitcomb who keeps us updated, we can report that both Senate Bill SB 2928 (authorizes the legislature to direct \$1 million to the Dept. of Ag. to fund staff positions under the Farm to School program) and House Bill HB 2025 (sets up a working group to study school composting and funds a pilot program under the DOE) have sped through respective environmental, agricultural and education committees plus all floor votes unopposed. We are hopeful that both bills will be scheduled for hearings in the critical money committees (FIN and WAM) in March. We are grateful to Sen. Mike Gabbard and Rep. Chris Lee for their vigorous support.

Region 9 EPA Environmental Education Grant • Professional grant writer John Polhemus has been contracted to prepare a mind-numbing \$100,000 federal grant proposal that would fund three Resource Recovery apprentice positions for two years, enabling the Hui to expand to include KIS and Enchanted Lake Elementary and produce a set of five Ka'ohao Protocol how-to videos. This grant is highly competitive – Region 9 includes CA, NV, AZ, etc. – but our program has already proven worthy on a national level. We'll give it our best shot.

KA'OHĀO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

Start: January 2014 • Number of students: 330 • 2017 food waste: 7.74 tons • Food waste collection: 100% cafeteria lunch and campus-wide snacks • Other: HI-5 cans and bottles, green waste, paper, cardboard, mylar • Technologies: thermal composting, vermicomposting.

Food waste recovered: 1,457 pounds. The February focus at Ka'ohao is always the second of our biannual vermicast harvests. Second graders ably helped out with the harvest of Big Blue, with Hui staff covering the seven additional worm bins. Wet weather delayed the drying and screening process assisted by 3rd graders, but in the end 640 pounds of commercial-grade vermicast was produced and prepared for use on campus and for sale to the public. A new worm nursery has been set up to accommodate a 3rd grade worm reproduction project that will kick up Ka'ohao worm sales to over \$2,000/year.

KA'ELEPULU ELEMENTARY

Start: August 2016 • Number of students: 200 • 2017 food waste: 9.18 tons • Food waste collection: 100% cafeteria breakfast and lunch • Other: HI-5 cans and bottles, some green waste • Technologies: thermal composting, vermicomposting

Food waste recovered: 1,707 pounds. Garden expansion is underway with a huge student-led melon patch planted on the back hillside. One side of the delapidated fence was removed and replaced by a line of dwarf fruit trees. Ka'elepulu Ladybugs continue to impress with daily student, staff, and volunteer compost/garden activities.

KAINALU ELEMENTARY

Start: January 2017 • Number of students: 463 • 2017 food waste: 14.83 tons • Food waste collection: 100% cafeteria breakfast and lunch • Other: HI-5 cans and bottles • Technologies: thermal composting, vermicomposting

Food waste recovered: 2,652 pounds. Kokua Hawaii Foundation awarded Kainalu a \$1,000 Youth Sustainability Grant to develop a Worm Partners Initiative that links 6th grade mentors with 2nd graders to expand campus vermicomposting operations. A second lateral-flow worm system was purchased for this project to be started up early April.

COMBINED FEBRUARY 2018 TOTALS

Four-week period from Feb. 5 – March 2, 2018. Includes 19 school days Kainalu and Ka'elepulu; 18 days Ka'ohao. Total students participating daily: Approx. 1,000.

Total food waste recovered in February: 5,816 pounds.

2018 total to date: 12,106 pounds (6.1 tons)