Mālama Learning Center

teaching and inspiring communities to live in a healthy, sustainable way

Created by people who are committed to enhancing the well-being of our environment and communities through education,

Mālama Learning Center:

- Provides innovative environmental education programs for students throughout West O‘ahu, particularly along the Leeward coast. In 2016, we conducted multi-day, in-depth programs changing the lives of more than 250 students and inspiring youth to be leaders of their community.

- Offers monthly WOW (without walls) hands-on workshops for community members to learn about sustainability and healthy living. In 2016, we offered a new workshop series on growing, harvesting, cooking, and enjoying kalo (taro).

- Restores mauka and makai areas with native Hawaiian plants grown at the Kapolei High School nursery. In 2016, volunteers outplanted more than 450 plants at Piliokaha Beach, Pālehua, Kalaeloa, and Nānākuli wetland.

- Amplifies student and community voices to protect our natural and cultural resources. In 2016 we worked on media and outreach projects to protect the endangered Hawaiian monk seal and green sea turtle and prevent marine debris.

- Provides sustainability education at a weekly farmers’ and green market called Mākeke Kapolei based at Kapolei High School. In 2016, we focused on ways to reduce plastic waste.

- Promotes public/private partnerships with DOE schools and the Hawai‘i State Teachers Association. In 2016 we taught 4 professional development courses helping 76 educators, including some from neighbor islands, become more effective and better paid teachers.

- Supports region-wide environmental education through effective collaboration. In 2016 we engaged in partner projects with the Wai‘anae Alliance for Wellness and Place-based Education and moved our operational home-base to Camp Pālehua, increasing our capacity to reach and impact many more people.

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Mahalo to our year-round community partners:

Hawaiian Electric

(above) Students from the Mālama ‘Āina Field School at Nānākuli reaffirmed our belief in the power of education through nature and culture.

(above) This mural, made entirely of plastic and marine debris, was created at our Mākeke Kapolei booth with the help of hundreds of students and shoppers.

(left) Teachers were inspired to improve their craft through our professional development courses.

“Thank you for all you do for education and educators!!”

Tasha Firestone,
Leeward District public school educator