



Nānākuli Wetland and Watershed Project

The Mālama Learning Center is excited to launch a new project with the community to learn about and help heal the environment in an around the waters of Nānākuli. The Nānākuli Wetland and Watershed Project will engage keiki (youth), kumu (teachers), mākoa (parents), kūpuna (elders), and the general public in a community-based and student-led project that spans mauka to makai, from the ridges of Pālehua to the shores of Kalanianaʻole Beach Park, also known as Nānākuli Beach Park.

This project will study a muliwai (estuary) area known commonly as “stink” pond by the infamous “bridge to nowhere.” While these names may be recognized by most community members, the area is largely ignored and misunderstood. And sadly, the environment of this once vibrant wetland is uncared for despite being near a well-used and beloved beach. At least three generations have become disconnected from this place and unmoved to take care of it . . . until now.

Current Project Participants:

- ❖ Ahupuaʻa O Nānākuli
- ❖ Alu Like
- ❖ City & County of Honolulu
- ❖ Cultural Learning Center at Kaʻala
- ❖ Friends of Honouliuli
- ❖ Hawaiʻi Environmental Education Alliance
- ❖ Hawaiʻi State Teachers Association
- ❖ PALS and PLACES
- ❖ Kapolei High School
- ❖ Ka Waihona O Ka Nāʻauao Public Charter School
- ❖ Mālama Learning Center
- ❖ Nānākuli High & Intermediate School
- ❖ Outside Hawaiʻi, OC16
- ❖ Surfrider Foundation
- ❖ University of Hawaiʻi West Oʻahu
- ❖ Waiʻanae High School
- ❖ WIRED program of the Pacific American Foundation

We will start by learning about the water quality in the stream as well as in the ocean, teaching students and educators to accurately monitor and analyze the water using various types of scientific equipment. We will study the plant and aquatic life and experiment with replanting areas with native species grown by students. We will collect land and marine debris. We will look at the environment from all aspects, including history and human use. We will also learn from expert scientists, resource managers, and cultural practitioners – intertwining science with traditional knowledge – to learn how to become better stewards.

Bringing people of all ages together, we will conduct intergenerational studies, service learning projects, and community work days to provide the hands and hearts that will lead to a healthier environment and people of Nānākuli. Please join us on this exciting project! We welcome resource people and volunteers of all ages.



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