



NEWS RELEASE

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Mālama Learning Center Grows Green for First Ever Ola Nā Kini Earth Day Ho‘olaule‘a

The Earth Day Ho‘olaule‘a will celebrate the beauty and importance of the ‘āina, with the help of students and the community on April 20

Mālama Learning Center Ola Nā Kini Photos: bit.ly/olanakini2019

Photo Credit: Mālama Learning Center

HONOLULU (March 19, 2019) -- In celebration of Earth Day, Mālama Learning Center will host its first Ola Nā Kini Earth Day Ho‘olaule‘a on April 20. The [Ola Nā Kini](#) initiative launched in 2017, to sprout awareness and support for restoring forests and watersheds around West O‘ahu. The event will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Nānākuli Public Library and will feature presentations by Ola Nā Kini students as well as educational exhibits showcasing their projects that celebrate the conservation of culture and sustainability of Hawai‘i.

The special Earth Day celebration, with the theme “Our ‘Āina, Our Community,” is made possible by a \$3,000 grant awarded by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs ‘Ahahui grant program as well as funding provided by NOAA B-WET Hawai‘i and the Kamehameha Schools Wai‘anae Region. Participating schools include Ka Waihona O Ka Na‘auao Public Charter School, Kamaile Academy, Kapolei High School, Mililani High School, Nānākuli High & Intermediate, Wai‘anae High, and Waipahu High School.

“We’re grateful for the generosity of our many partners, including the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, NOAA B-WET Hawai‘i and Kamehameha Schools Wai‘anae Region, who are helping us share the work of our students while celebrating Earth Day with the community,” said Pauline Sato, Mālama Learning Center’s executive & program director. “Since this program first launched, we have reached many exciting milestones including planting 1,000 native Hawaiian plants and growing them in our own nurseries, with the help of students and volunteers at our coastal and upland restoration sites.”

The free celebration is open to the public and will also feature exhibits by Mililani High School’s Youth Envisioning Sustainable Futures program, as well as interactive activities including natural Easter egg dying, live butterfly exhibits, and ti leaf lei making. Guests can also enjoy student entertainment and farm-to-table food tastings.

Ola Nā Kini—which translates to “Life for the Multitude” in Hawaiian—focuses on replanting native plants that once thrived in the islands, including those along the Wai‘anae Mountains. In line with Mālama Learning Center’s efforts to bring art, science, conservation, and culture together to promote sustainable living throughout Hawai‘i, this program aims to heal the land, ocean and multitude of life through engagement and education.

Participants study and explore the value of planting native trees, shrubs and ground cover, as well as culturally important and edible plants that reduce erosion, improve watersheds, preserve Hawaiian culture, and reduce the effects of climate change. All of these efforts strengthen the resilience of landscapes and communities.

For more information about Mālama Learning Center and the [Ola Nā Kini Earth Day Ho‘olaule‘a](#), visit www.malamalearningcenter.org or call (808) 497-5323. Also, follow Mālama Learning Center on Facebook at www.facebook.com/malamalearningcenter and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/malamalearning.com.

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About Mālama Learning Center

Since its inception in 2004, Mālama Learning Center has worked to unify schools, residents, and businesses in West O‘ahu through education that incorporates art, science, conservation, and culture. Mālama Learning Center uses a hands-on approach to learning, preparing its participants for diverse real-world experiences and 21st century careers.

About OHA's ‘Ahahui Grants Program

OHA's ‘Ahahui Grants program provides funding to support eligible organizations hosting community events that benefit the Native Hawaiian community and align with OHA’s Strategic Results. OHA set aside \$400,000 total for the ‘Ahahui Grants Program for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019. For more information about the ‘Ahahui Grants Program, including an online application and deadlines, please visit www.oha.org/grants.

About the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Established by the state Constitutional Convention in 1978, OHA is a semi-autonomous state agency mandated to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. Guided by a board of nine publicly elected trustees, OHA fulfills its mandate through advocacy, research, community engagement, land management and the funding of community programs. Learn more at www.oha.org.