Using the Hawai‘i School Garden Curriculum Map
Create a Standards-Based Garden Program for Your Classroom

Kū ‘Āina Pā Summer Intensives for Hawaiʻi’s Teachers

Pāhoa, Hawai‘i Island
June 5–8, 2017
Hawai‘i Academy of Arts and Science

Honolulu, Oʻahu
July 24–27, 2017
Waikiki Elementary School

Partners include:

Save the dates!

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A project of The Kohala Center’s Kū ‘Āina Pā School Garden Teacher Training and Hawai‘i Island School Garden Network programs. The Kohala Center is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
Introduction to the Hawai‘i School Garden Curriculum Map
A Resource for Hawai‘i’s Teachers K–8

What is a school garden? A school garden is an innovative teaching tool and instructional strategy that allows educators to incorporate hands-on activities with a diversity of interdisciplinary, standards-based lessons. The garden engages students by providing a dynamic environment in which to observe, discover, experiment, nurture, and learn. It is a living laboratory where lessons are drawn from real-life experiences, allowing students to become active participants in their own learning.

Through school learning gardens, students gain:
• an appreciation of their unique place;
• a deep understanding of surrounding ecology and ecosystems;
• knowledge of good food and healthy lifestyles;
• an understanding of soil, plant, and natural cycles; and
• opportunities to solve real problems using core skills in the areas of sustainability, food, water, energy, recycling, biodiversity, pollinators, invasive species, and climate change.

Each of these areas is calling for innovation and creative solutions to address the real problems of today and the future.

The Hawai‘i School Garden Curriculum was created by teachers for busy teachers who may not be gardeners themselves, but intuitively understand the benefits of inquiry-based, place-based, project-based learning for their students.

We began by asking the question: What do students need to know about good food, the environment, sustainability, and nature’s systems by eighth grade? Then we created Garden Themes, Topics, and Learning Outcomes and linked them to suggested Garden Activities and Classroom Extensions. Then we aligned those activities with Common Core, NGSS, and Health Standards. We know that instructional time is valuable.

The School Garden Curriculum Map is a pathway to connect core curriculum in the classroom with opportunities for extending learning in the real world—the basis of both Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards. The Big Ideas begin with A Sense of Place, move to the all-important Living Soil and Living Plant, on to Nourishment, and finally Nature’s Design, encompassing the science-based cycles, patterns, and systems of the natural world.

For more information, contact The Kohala Center at info@kohalacenter.org or 808-887-6411.

Mabalo to The Kohala Center’s Hawai‘i Island School Garden Network and Kū ‘Āina Pā Teacher Training Program for School Learning Gardens; Māla‘ai: The Culinary Garden of Waimea Middle School; and to The Bill Healy Foundation, the WHH Foundation, and the USDA Farm to School Program for their additional support.