‘A‘ole (No) Marine Debris -- Nature and Culture Based Community Education in Coastal Communities

Presented by Mālama Learning Center
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Overview

- Mālama Learning Center

- Marine Debris in Hawaiʻi

- ‘Aʻole (No) Marine Debris Program

- Lessons Learned

- Implications of Program on Coastal Communities in Hawaiʻi
Mālama Learning Center brings art, science, culture, and conservation together through education in West O‘ahu, Hawai‘i.

www.malamalearningcenter.org
The body of a fledgling Laysan albatross nicknamed “Shed Bird” who died just before this picture was taken. To determine the cause of death Cynthia Vanderlip, manager of the State of Hawaii’s Kure Atoll Wildlife Sanctuary, cut the dead bird open to reveal a stomach full of plastics. Copyright: David Littschwager and Susan Middleton
‘A‘ole (No) Marine Debris Program

- Coastal Restoration
- Professional Development Course for Educators
- Marine Debris Outreach Internship
- Public Outreach
- Videos
Coastal Restoration

- Engage community in monthly coastal restoration volunteer opportunities at Piliokahe Beach Park in West O‘ahu
- Grow native Hawaiian plants in nursery
- Outplant native species at Piliokahe Beach Park
- Monitor & remove marine debris/litter from park & beach areas
Professional Development Course for Educators

- Train local educators to develop and implement curriculum that focuses on healthy coastal and marine environments w/ a STEAM and place-based approach

- Connect educators to community & professional resources focused on marine debris

- Multiplier effect
Marine Debris Outreach Internship

• Build the capacity of a local student interested in environmental conservation through a 10 month paid internship

• Foster the next generation of land stewards

• Help students understand local environmental issues and develop skills in this field
Public Outreach

• Monthly hands-on activities at Mākeke Kapolei – a farmers’ and green market

• Attend other outreach events in Hawai‘i

• Art Integration (marine debris mural, t-shirt bags, recycled newspaper pots, decorated bottle planters)
Videos

Beyond the Malama, What We All Can Do to Care for the Environment
from Malama Learning Center

https://vimeo.com/182646015
Lessons Learned

• Collaboration w/partners is key to promoting long-term success and collective change within community

• Reach a diverse range of audiences w/various levels of knowledge on marine debris through multiple program activities

• Professional Development courses for educators is an effective strategy

• Develop standard evaluation system for measuring changes in human behavior/perceptions on marine debris issues
Lessons Learned

- Use marine debris as a platform for deeper conversations regarding sustainability and environmental conservation
- Not as much marine debris in West O‘ahu from other places
- Expand to other sites along West O‘ahu coast
- Advocate for policy changes to tackle sources of marine debris
Implications of Program on Coastal Communities in Hawai‘i

Build community resiliency along coastal areas of West O‘ahu

Unite teachers, students, and the community around a shared ethic of caring for the ‘āina (land & sea) through engaging, hands-on education activities
‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia.
No task is too big when done together by all.
Pukui 1983
Mahalo!