

KIDS EATING LOCAL

Expanding Hawai'i's Harvest of the Month Program



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII' at MĀNOA
COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE
AND HUMAN RESILIENCE

PROJECT SUMMARY

The "Kids Eating Local" project unites keiki with Hawai'i's unique, nutritious, and culturally significant local foods/kūpuna crops through tasting experiences and expanded use of Hawai'i Harvest of the Month (HOM)/Ho'opili 'Ai free online educational resources. The program is run by the UH CTAHR Farm to School Program with several partner organizations.



\$29,200 FUNDED

including support from the Children's Healthy Living Food Systems (\$19,853), Atherton Family Foundation (\$2,638), Chef Hui (\$5,607), and GRaCE/HIPHI (\$1,100).



SPRING 2024

Funding was utilized to support the Harvest of the Month Program from January through May 2024.



BACKGROUND

Farm to school programs positively impact the areas of economic development, public health, education, the environment, equity, and community engagement (National Farm to School Network, 2020). This project utilizes experiential farm to school education to increase student preference for Hawai'i's kūpuna crops and their willingness to try new foods, while strengthening relationships between schools and agricultural communities.

SOLUTION

The program's target audience includes PreK-12 students, teachers, and families from public, public charter, and independent schools on all islands. Program partners include UH CTAHR, Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative, Hawai'i Farm to School Network (Hawai'i Public Health Institute), and Chef Hui. The "Kids Eating Local" project occurred during the Spring 2024 semester, January through May 2024, and was supported with a total funding amount of \$29,200.31 from four sources.

MEASURING IMPACT

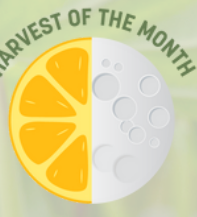
Teacher and family feedback forms were administered to gather information on how the materials were used, how students responded to the tastings, changes in knowledge and personal consumption of featured crops, and whether they would utilize the program again and recommend it to others.

REFERENCES

National Farm to School Network. (2020). *The Benefits of Farm to School*.
<https://www.farmentoschool.org/resources-main/benefits-of-farm-to-school>

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January - May 2024



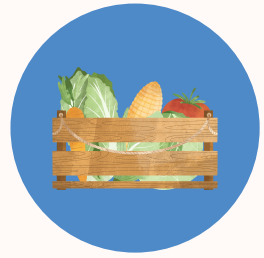
55 SCHOOLS SERVED

O'ahu (28), Hawai'i Island (16), Maui (9), and Kaua'i (2), of which 55% were Title I schools.



7,500+ INDIVIDUALS REACHED

including students, teachers, and families, which may be a conservative estimate based on the number of possible people served per box. A total of 174 classroom boxes (est. 25-100 per box) and 39 cafeteria boxes (est. 75-100 per box) were distributed.



4,242 LBS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED

including 30 lbs of 'Ulu, 756 lbs of Kalo, 3,331 lbs of 'Uala, and 125 lbs of Pala'ai. All food was locally grown and provided by the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative, which is a local food hub and farmer-owned co-op that sources from over 160 farms on 4 islands.

"The students loved eating and learning about 'ulu. This program added a priceless connection to the Hawaiian Studies lessons, especially the mo'olelo and self sustainability awareness. They now have the knowledge about eating a healthy fruit from our own island and I hope they continue to spread the word and someday become stewards of the land."

- Classroom Teacher

"It was a great family activity, and we enjoyed making a healthy meal together!"

- Parent of Participating Student



CONTACT

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