

May 23, 2019

Dear Mānoa School 'Ohana:

This past Tuesday, Mānoa School had the opportunity to express its appreciation to all of the volunteers who dedicated their time and energy over the course of this past year. We are extremely grateful to our parents, grandparents, teachers, neighbors, business partners and service organizations who supported all of our various initiatives that positively impacted our children. On behalf of the faculty and staff, thank you! We eagerly look forward to working with all of our wonderful volunteers next school year.



Uncle Matt, Mrs. Brown and Ms. Ricardo showing off the finished compost product from cafeteria waste.

of the waste, and then amend the collected food scraps to the properly tended-to piles located near the Mānoa Community Garden. Mrs. Brown taught our students how to monitor the pile's internal temperature and to look for signs of nature's microorganisms breaking down the organic matter into this valuable soil commodity. During the Festival of Music Fair, fifth graders sold their first batch of finished compost following a long six month transformation process. For the school year, this sustainability initiative diverted 3,500 pounds of food waste from our rubbish dumpsters!

Students took their learning and applied it in ways to make a positive impact in the larger community. Ms. Ricardo's fifth grade students invited State Representative Dale Kobayashi to visit Mānoa School

One volunteer that I'd like to recognize is Dana Brown, a former parent of Mānoa School and our school's sustainability champion. Mrs. Brown, together with our amazing fifth grade team of teachers and students, sought to reduce our school's cafeteria waste by implementing a viable composting program. Once a week, Mrs. Brown would work with a rotating team of fifth graders to properly sort cafeteria lunch waste between compostable and non-compostable items, log the weight



Ms. Ricardo's class with Representative Dale Kobayashi

where they had the opportunity to teach our legislator about their composting project and then express their reasons why it is so important to support initiatives that lead to a sustainable future in the State of Hawaii. Great job fifth grade!

Mrs. Brown's tenure as our resident sustainability champion is coming to a close with her family's relocation to the mainland this Summer. We will truly miss her wisdom and contribution in enriching our school's sustainability values. Mānoa School is currently looking for a team of volunteers who want to continue and build upon our growing sustainability initiatives. If you have the ability to spend several hours a week working with our children and managing our existing and future compost piles, please email me at ryan_kusuda@notes.k12.hi.us. Your time and can-do attitude aligned with our mission to collectively nurture, empower and inspire all students will be gladly welcomed!

Sincerely,

Mr. Kusuda