

ECO.

Earth Care Opportunities

4 youth

2019 Camps

Maui - October 10-12

O'ahu - November 9-11

hcucc.org/eco4youth





Maui youth participants: 29 youth ranging from grades 6-12, from three different islands (Maui, Lānaʻi, Kauaʻi) and three different churches



Oʻahu youth participants: 41 youth ranging from grades 6-12, from two different islands (Oʻahu and Kauaʻi) and seven different churches

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAUI CAMP



Presentation by Hawai'i Wildlife Fund on marine debris and its effects on the environment.
What can we do? 5 Rs (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle).



Hearing from Waiola Church member, council member, and former mayoral candidate, Elle Cochran, who encourages the youth to take charge and be involved in making the changes they want to see in their community.



Groups went to different beaches along the highway and did simple and quick beach cleanups.



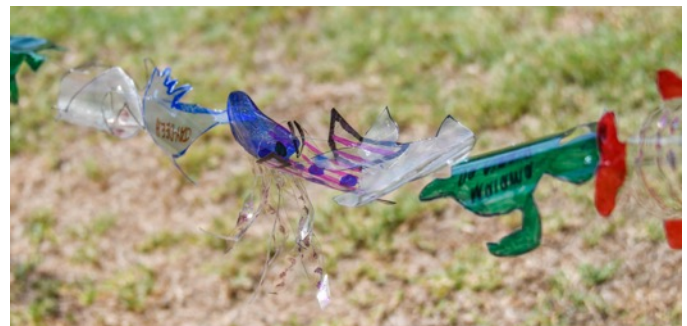
Visit to Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve. Youth learned how the mountains and sea are connected and helped to collect seeds that would later be planted to help prevent mud runoff into the ocean.



A memorable message

Youth repurposed plastic bottles and made ornaments which were strung together and sent to senators with a message urging senators to do something about plastic pollution.

View the letter composed by our youth and sent to our senators on the following page.



E.C.O. 4 YOUTH CAMPERS
Earth Care Opportunities for Youth
Waiola Church, 535 Waine'e Street
Lahaina, Hawai'i, 96761

October 12, 2019

Dear Ms. Hirono,

We greet you with aloha. We are a group of 31 young people in grades 6 through 11, who live on the islands of Lana'i, Kaua'i, and Maui.

We are writing to you because we are very concerned about plastic pollution and how it is threatening the ocean around our island homes. It is poisoning animals, coral reefs, and humans. Plastic breaks down in the ocean and gets eaten by the fish, and then we eat the fish!

Some of us cry, and we demand that adults do something about the plastic and microplastics. Please do something to save the turtles and the sharks, they are our favorite animals. Could you try not to use plastic for one year?

If you are not doing anything to stop the marine debris right now, please step out and DO something about it, not just talk about it. We know there are ways to help pass laws that protect the oceans and the earth. We want you to do everything you can.

We made these sea creatures out of plastic bottles, so you can see what the plastic is doing to our beautiful oceans. It is slowly turning the fish and other living things into plastic.

Mahalo for your kokua!

With aloha,
The E.C.O. Campers, 2019

HIGHLIGHTS FROM O'AHU CAMP



Youth visited Mōhala Farms and learned about composting, permaculture, and even prepared lunch with ingredients from the farm.



Dr. Mark Hixon, UH Manoa Biology Professor, shared with the youth about Hawai'i's changing oceans and how our choices, like what we eat, can have a positive or negative effect on the environment.



Local youth Dyson Chee of Project O.C.E.A.N. Hawaii shared with the youth about plastic pollution and what we can do to combat it.



Engaging in activism. Youth signed a scroll in support of Bill 40 which was presented at the hearings for the bill. Bill 40 has since been passed, banning certain single-use plastics on O'ahu.



Youth reflect on what they learned and, in their church groups, discuss what knowledge and ideas they can bring back to their communities to create positive change for the environment.

View their reflections and resolutions on the following pages.

Central Union Church

11/11/2019

- MEATLESS MONDAYZ
(EATING LESS MEAT IS BETTER FOR THE EARTH)
- BRING WATERBOTTLES / metal straws
ON SUNDAY
- RECYCLING/SORTING RECYCLEABLES, for MONEY. (funding for Y.G. Activities)
- Add more recycling bins on church campus.
- USE LESS PLASTIC (as much as possible)
- BEACH CLEAN-UPS
- RECYCLE THE FOOD WE WASTE
(GIVING IT TO PIGS)
- USE BIO-DEGRADABLE BOWLS/DISHES

Church of the Crossroads

"Earth Justice League"

what we learned:

- Get rid of single use plastics
- Bill 40, how to submit testimony
- Malama Aina
- how bad over fishing is
- Cow's farts contribute to 30% of emissions

what difference we will make personally:

- try harder to not use/buy plastic water bottles
- eat less seafood that is not sustainable
- try to buy aluminum over plastic
- choose local grown IF you can

what we can share w/ friends & family to care for the earth:

- talk to friends about ways to eliminate waste.
- Save the turtles. "stskstskstskstsk"

Lihue Christian

KAUAI



CHANGES AT CHURCH:

- Church Garden
- Electronic (projected) service programs
- Reusable items for church meals

PERSONAL CHANGES:

- Family food garden
- Family get-togethers, reusable appliances
- Bring home lunch to work / school
- Riding bike / walking to destinations vs. driving.
- Environmentally safe products.

WHAT WE LEARNED:

- Severity of Climate Change
- Simple ways to take action
- The importance of awareness
- The importance of making your voice heard & being brave
- Teamwork

WHAT TO SHARE:

- Our own experience/knowledge here at Eco-camp
- How: Allowing recipients to relate personally
- Realistic / Simple solutions

Maia Sgaili Samoan Church

• What we learned

- How to take better care of our planet.
- Bill 40: stop the use of single-use plastic.
- ~~Chito~~ Coral Bleaching & the healings of Coral

• What diff. we will make personally

- USE LESS PLASTIC !!!

• What to share to family & friends

- Re-use, reduce, recycle.
- How to take better care of our beach
- Pick-up trash
- Take reusable plates & utensils to school.

Titan, Christian, and Jean

Pearl City Community Church

- **what we learned.** We learned how to save the sea animals, how much the Earth has changed, so much of the Earth has been dying by people not taking care of it well, global warming, trash.
- **what difference we will make personally**
Don't use a lot of plastic, don't be lazy and pick up your rubbish, reuse, reduce, recycle, and respect, Don't waste electricity or water and even food.
- **what we can share with friends & family to care for the earth.** How much we care about the Earth, How important it is to take care of the Earth, How we can respect our plants and animals.

USE MORE
TRANSPORTATION
→ CARPOOL

Reflection - WAIALUA U.C.C. ! Mālama ka 'āina!

- SHORTER SHOWERS

- PICK UP TRASH
- no litter

MAKE HOME
- VEGGIE/FRUIT
GARDENS

- RECYCLE

- SOLAR
PANELS(?)

- USE LESS PLASTICS

SCHOOL
WORK

- BRING OWN MATERIALS

- TURN OFF LIGHTS (SAVE
ELECTRICITY)

- CONSERVE WATER
- TURN OFF WATER WHEN
NOT USING !!!

PLANT
- MORE
TREES

WATER

- COMPOST
GREEN WASTE

FERTILIZE
PLANTS

Waiiokeola 4 Change ☺

What we learned

- eat less meat (forest being torn down for cows)
- 4 Rs Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Respect ★
- 1 piece of plastic can kill so many sea creatures
 - non-biodegradable
 - gives off toxins
 - attracts mercury

What difference will we make

- Use metal straws
- Use reusable utensils
- Use less plastic ★
- conserve water
- plant more trees ★
- Beach clean up ★
- pick up trash even if it's not yours ★

What can we share to Friends & Family to care for EARTH

- See above ↑ - lead by example ↑ ★
- Be aware of the problems, be educated

All welcome @ Waiiokeola Church