ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

INSPIRING AND PREPARING STUDENTS FOR CAREERS IN NATURAL RESOURCES

WE HELP EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS
We build Natural Resource (NR) career pathways for Hawaiʻi's youth. We offer students hands-on support that can be in-school, work-based, or project based. We offer educators professional development training.

Our emphasis is on work-based learning (WBL) and preparing students to lead as professionals and citizens. We have a range of offerings, from stand-alone programs to system transformation.

HOW WE DO IT
We Design and Build:
- Statewide standards for NR career pathways
- NR career pathways and programs at the school or complex level
- Consortiums of schools and industry to improve career pathways and WBL opportunities
- Research frameworks to guide WBL opportunities and pathway development
- Strategies and materials to promote enrollment in NR career pathways by students with varied interests and skill sets
- Transferable online tools to support WBL across schools and complexes

Standing Environmental Ed Initiatives & Programs
- Natural Resources Sector Partnership
- Environmental Education Leaders (EELs)
- Hawaiʻi Youth Sustainability Challenge (HYSC)
- Kōkua Camp
- Natural Resources Professional Development Training Program for Educators
  (see next pages for details)

WHY WE DO IT
Natural resource careers in Hawaiʻi include high-skill, high-wage, in-demand jobs that are growing in number. Thousands of "green collar" jobs already exist in Hawaiʻi, and they are expected to increase given climate change and Hawaiʻi's renewed focus on resilience. Unfortunately, many of these jobs are filled by people from outside of Hawaiʻi rather than our own youth and adults. We can change this through the environmental education pathways, academies, and support offered by our program.

In addition to preparing Hawaiʻi youth for good jobs, this style of education can enhance academic performance and social-emotional development, especially given the learning loss experienced recently due to Covid-19.
ENVIROMENTAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
INITIATIVES & PROGRAMS

NATURAL RESOURCES SECTOR PARTNERSHIP
A brand new initiative to build partnerships between educators and industry that will result in a connected system of supports, information, and resources to inspire and better prepare Hawaiʻi’s students to meet the future demands of natural resource professions in Hawaiʻi.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION LEADERS (EELS)
A year-long program that provides direct support to teachers and students based on school-identified needs. EELs engage students grades 6-12 in hands-on, work-based learning activities; bring in guest speakers and expert professionals; and develop curriculum that broadens student knowledge while fostering long-term school and industry connections.

CONTACT:
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**Hawai‘i Youth Sustainability Challenge (HYSC)**

A semester-long program of Kupu and Kōkua Hawai‘i Foundation, HYSC supports student-led initiatives that address Hawai‘i’s conservation and sustainability challenges by providing funding, mentorship, and training to 9-12th graders statewide.

**Kōkua Camp**

A week-long spring break and summer day camp for Hawai‘i youth ages 12-16 years old, Kōkua Camp participants learn about Hawai‘i’s cultural and natural resources by traveling to significant sites across O‘ahu where they mālama ‘āina and participate in experiential, project-based learning.

**Natural Resources Professional Development Training Program for Educators**

A semester-long professional development program for educators designed to expose participants to careers in natural resources, grow connections between teachers and community, increase teacher knowledge of natural resource topics, and build a repository of curricula that increases student knowledge of natural resource careers and subjects.

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