HA'AI'I YOUTH SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE
2022-2023

A program of Kupu and Kōkua Hawai‘i Foundation, the Hawai‘i Youth Sustainability Challenge is an initiative that empowers Hawai‘i youth to create solutions to conservation and sustainability challenges in their schools and communities. Students in grades 9-12 receive funding, coaching, and training to support their innovative and grassroots environmental initiatives.

List of Awarded Schools

**Castle High School**
- Reforesting Our Hawaiian Hill ($1,000)

**Hawai‘i Technology Academy**
- Beating the Heat: Solar Panels ($985)

**Kalani High School**
- Soap Bars from Food Waste ($665)

**Kamehameha Schools - Kapālama**
- Converting Wave Energy into Electricity Using an Oscillating Water Column ($1,000)

**Kapolei High School**
- Ho‘oulu ($1,000)

**Le Jardin Academy**
- My Tree Campus ($800)

**Maryknoll High School**
- ‘A‘ala Community Center ($250)
- Mālama Hawai‘i’s Animals ($360)
- Play to Protect Hawai‘i’i Wildlife ($350)

**Pearl City High School**
- PCHS Wellness Garden ($500)

**Punahou School**
- Kōkua Tree ($990)

**Radford High School**
- The Food We Waste ($300)

**Roosevelt High School**
- Mala Sustainability ($600)

**Waipahu High School**
- Implementing Fake Root System to stop Beach Erosion ($500)

**Waialua High and Intermediate School**
- Waialua Wraps ($1,000)
PROGRAM IMPACT

Reflecting upon their projects, the impact they had in their schools and communities, and their overall involvement in HYSC, of student participants:

- **95%** increased their environmental awareness and understanding
- **84%** feel a greater responsibility for stewarding our environmental resources
- **100%** were encouraged to continue to volunteer or serve their school and community
- **89%** improved their leadership and project management skills
- **100%** improved their communication skills

"My time in HYSC has inspired me to continue doing projects [and] in college, I plan to continue pursuing project-based solutions in environmentalism."
- Andrew, Kalani High School

"The knowledge I've been given during this program is so valuable to me, and I will use it to continue to lead projects like this and strive for my goal of restoring my home."
- Hi’ilani, Kapolei High School
COMMUNITY PARTNER CHALLENGES

Three awesome student teams participated in "Community Partner Challenges" in which organizations from across the state identified the top problems they confront that would benefit from creative solutions developed by students. **Mahalo to all of our community partners who submitted challenges for HYSC 22-23!**

‘A’ala Community Center (ACC):
Maryknoll High School + American Savings Bank

Two students from Maryknoll High School designed a sustainable community center space promoting the use and revitalization of ‘A’ala Community Park.

Mālama Hawai’i’s Animals:
Maryknoll High School + National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

A student from Maryknoll High School continued his partnership with NOAA to design and develop an interactive game that teaches people about the same viewing distances for endangered Hawaiian Monk Seals.

My Tree Campus:
Le Jardin Academy + Kaulunani Urban & Community Forestry Program

A student from Le Jardin Academy established a niu grove on her campus and created corresponding curriculum for 3rd-5th graders at her school. Through this, she secured a "Tree Campus" accreditation through the Arbor Day Foundation for her school.
Lā Hoʻohui ʻIke: A Day of Gathering Knowledge

On February 12, 2023, HYSC held its first ever all-team in-person training day at Kupu’s Hoʻokupu Center in Kewalo Basin. Students and educators across our participating high schools came together with HYSC coaches, staff, and community partners for a day of learning and cohort building.

Training Session:
- Community Engagement and Strategic Communications - Nā Hopena Consulting, ACLU of Hawai’i, and Jennifer Barrett Creative
- Social Capital and Building Connections - Kupu
- POLICY: What is it and why it matters - Blue Planet Foundation
- "Local Style Innovation" Keynote - Olin Lagon

"It was a great opportunity to hear about other people's projects and feel more connected."
- Zoe, Le Jardin Academy

"I really loved this training day! The atmosphere was accepting and comfortable. [It was] such a wonderful day!"
- Sophie, Punahou School

Right: Students participate in a "Design Thinking Challenge" as teams

Far Right: Students hear from Blue Planet Foundation in a training about civic engagement
Hawai‘i Conservation Conference 2023

Three (3) exemplary student teams presented at the Hawai‘i Conservation Conference (HCC) in June 2023, back in-person for the first time since Covid. Teams presented their outstanding work and had a chance to directly interact with the audience during a special 2-hour forum called "Teens Creating Conservation Innovations: Students Share Their Hawai‘i Youth Sustainability Challenge Projects."

Presenting Teams

- **Reforesting Our Hawaiian Hill** - Kiley Murakami, Castle High School
- **Soap Bars from Food Waste** - Andrew Lee and Stephanie Lee, Kalani High School
- **Kōkua Tree** - Sophie Sandomire, Punahou School

![AIA I HI‘IKUA, I HI‘IALO 30th HAWAI‘I CONSERVATION CONFERENCE](image)

- **Left:** Kupu staff with two HYSC students who participated in HCC's Pūlama Kuamo'o Mentorship Program
- **Center, left:** Our incredible presenters!
- **Center, right:** Andrew Lee presenting "Soap Bars from Food Waste"
- **Right:** Student presenters hosted "Breakout Tables" to connect further with the audience
HYSC Alumni Spotlight
Scrappahz Union 96792 - Nānākuli High and Intermediate School

Started during HYSC 2020-21 as the "Nānākuli Community Composting Movement," this project has grown from a school-based composting initiative into a student-led movement promoting the normalization of composting and cardboard recycling on Oʻahu's West Side. Recently, the "Scrappahz Union 96792" received 1st place in American Savings Bank’s KeikiCo Contest – High School Division and securing $25,000 for their school! You can follow them on Instagram @scrappahz_union96792

Mahalo to Our Funders!

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The Hawaii Youth Sustainability Challenge is a program of Kupu and Kōkua Hawaiʻi Foundation