

# Keeping It Green

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A publication of Recycle Hawai'i

## Message from the Executive Director



When I joined the staff of Recycle Hawai'i in 2003, it was the opinion of the then RH Board President that to show it was successful in carrying out its mission, RH would tend to put itself out of business. Well, we're not ready to concede that we've made enough progress in

fostering recycling in Hawai'i County over the past quarter century to be able to curtail our work, but we may have come to a crossroads in refocusing our efforts to include more discipline in the realm of Zero Waste strategies that not only include recycling but much more focus on improving sustainable island living.

Richard Anthony Associates, the consultant group that formulated the Zero Waste Implementation Plan for Hawai'i County in 2009, helped to facilitate recent meetings in Kailua-Kona that brought together stakeholders from all over the state in the public and private sector composting, solid waste, recycling and resource management industries.

Mahalo to former County recycling specialist and RH educator, Angela Kang, who did most of the legwork in organizing the March 9-10 event, and to Council member Margaret Wille plus representatives from Zero Waste Kauai, Zero Waste Campaign Maui, Recycle Hawai'i, County of Hawai'i's Dept. of Environmental Management and a variety of private businesses who participated. Stimulating presentations from internationally known zero-wasters were shared by Captain Charles Moore, Paul Connett, Ruth Abbe, and Hawai'i Wildlife Fund's Megan Lamson who assisted with note-taking and compiling key points of our discussions. Mahalo also to the Carton Council and Hana Hou Recycling in Holualoa who made sponsorship contributions to help cover expenses for the two-day event.

Noticeably absent from the proceedings were representatives of the State Department of Health (DOH). It was the consensus of those present that the DOH generally needs more funding for the programs it oversees and can benefit from ideas and support put forth by concerned citizens.

The meetings raised some interesting questions in moving towards Zero Waste goals around the state. Do we, and like-minded organizations on the neighbor islands, want to become part of a national and international ZW movement and affiliate across the country and the world to further the ZW concept? Can we agree on a definition of zero waste? The consensus was affirmative and plans for future meetings most likely to occur on Oahu were urged.

One idea put forward was to effect a name change for our organization from Recycle Hawai'i to "Zero Waste Hawai'i"

to better reflect the various components of striving towards the goals of reducing the volume of valuable resources going to landfills, to be buried, and to counteract all the negative impacts on our environment that landfilling and/or mass burning entails. This, of course, would require a majority of the active voting RH membership at its annual meeting later this year, but it's worth considering to reflect changes in our direction over the coming years.

Now that Hawai'i County is back on track on the path to zero waste, Margaret Wille, Council member District 9, is introducing resolutions and legislative changes with a variety of measures that would help implement the Zero Waste goals established some six years ago. Among these are a revival of the Pay-As-You-Throw concept of charging a fee to residents to dispose of unrecyclable waste headed to the landfill – coupled with the avoided costs of more recycling and composting of organics that would remain free to residents. Those of us who have been recycling and reducing our waste even before the HI5 bottle bill was introduced in 2005, would continue to save landfill space and trash disposal fees as opposed to having to contribute tax monies to inefficient and hazardous waste handling schemes such as recently killed plans for a waste to energy mass burn facility in Hilo.

Another bill to have been introduced on March 31 to the County Council will get all recyclables and compostable organics out of the landfill by 2018; and still another bill would mandate commercial haulers to make a provision for collecting source separated materials for recycling but also allows them to dispose of these materials in county recycling bins and mulch operations at no charge. This would result in savings on tipping fees for commercial haulers. SB1227 is currently deferred, but would ban all commercially generated green/food waste from the island's landfills.

**All of these efforts are worthy of support by our membership to encourage the channeling of available tax-funded monies to more sustainable and efficient means of dealing with the County's resources.** Experience cited and shown from communities that have initiated such measures have resulted in savings to taxpayers and succeed when the numbers and savings are transparent and shared with the communities involved.

**The County Council will meet April 22, 23 and 24 for the Departmental Budget and Program Reviews.** The Wednesday, April 22 session begins at 9 a.m. with testimony from the public either before or right after the Mayor provides an overview of the operating and capital Budgets and Programs. If can, attend and let your voices be heard when the Department of Environmental Management presents and responds to questions about next fiscal year's budget allocations.

**Recycle Hawai'i is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization serving the people of Hawai'i. Our mission is to promote resource awareness and recycling enterprises in Hawai'i. To achieve this, we educate the community about sound resource management and recycling opportunities for a more environmentally sustainable future.**

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*Keeping It Green* is published four times each year by Recycle Hawai'i, PO Box 4847, Hilo, HI 96720. It features the work of RH staff members, County of Hawai'i contributors and members of the Island of Hawai'i community at large. Announcements of events are published as space allows.

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## In the News

## RECYCLE BOWL RESULTS

Hawai'i island schools rallied to divert campus discards from the landfill by participating in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Recycle-Bowl Competition on October 20-November 15, 2014. Results of this nationwide recycling competition were announced in February and an awards ceremony

was held on March 11 to acknowledge the top schools statewide.

Volcano School of Arts and Sciences (VSAS) Middle Public Charter School was awarded as the 2014 Recycle-Bowl Hawai'i State



Champion for recycling the most pounds per student per school over the 4 weeks of the competition.

As a first time participant in this event, VSAS students received support from teachers and staff to collect and divert a total of 984 pounds of paper, cardboard, cartons, plastics and food waste from the landfill. Their outstanding recycling efforts earned their school a \$1,000 prize award sponsored by Lex Brodie Tire Foundation on O'ahu.

Local businesses donated awards for the other top 3 schools in the state – all from Hawai'i Island. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner, Konawaena High School, received a \$500 prize donated by Lex Brodie's Tire Co. The 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner, Pahoa Intermediate-High School, received a \$250 prize sponsored by Goodfellow Bros., Inc. The 4th place winner, St. Joseph Jr.-Sr. High School, received a \$100 prize donated by Island Naturals Market and Deli. Other schools that completed the RB competition were: Kohala Middle and Kea'au Elementary on Hawai'i Island; Haiku Elementary, Lahainaluna High and King Kekaulike High on Maui.



For information on Recycle-Bowl, sponsored by Keep America Beautiful, visit [www.Recycle-Bowl.org](http://www.Recycle-Bowl.org). In Hawai'i, Recycle-Bowl is coordinated and promoted by Recycle Hawai'i and Keep the Hawaiian Islands Beautiful. For recycling, composting and zero waste information, contact Recycle Hawai'i at [www.recyclehawaii.org](http://www.recyclehawaii.org) or [info@recyclehawaii.org](mailto:info@recyclehawaii.org).

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## Featured Project of

### Art & Science of Recycling

RH's 10<sup>th</sup> year of promoting recyclable art in the schools will be part of Environmental Education Week on April 19-25, 2015 sponsored by the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF).

Participating Hawai'i island schools include Kahakai Elementary's 9th Annual Recyclable Art Contest. This schoolwide event by grades 1-5 students and teachers culminates in a display of student's creative works during the month of April.

Alisha DeGuair, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and coordinator for the event says, "This is truly the favorite art contest of the students and teachers here at Kahakai. It is 100% student created and it takes little to no teacher participation aside from giving suggestions and handling materials. The students come up with such innovative projects every year that we all cannot wait to see what they will do come April. Our projects are tied to an environmental issue and students come up with the best ideas about bringing awareness to these issues and how to help solve the problems our community is facing. For example, pollution of our beaches and ocean, birds and turtles getting tangled in trash and landfills filling up. These are just a few of the issues students chose to talk about this year. I cannot imagine not holding this contest at our school. School should not just be about testing and assessments, school should be about teaching the whole child and integrating art is something that feeds the soul, makes kids excited about learning and keeps them coming back."

Congratulations to all Kahakai Elementary students, faculty and families whose participation demonstrates what each of us can do to practice and promote the 3 Rs.

Stay tuned for more on ASR schools at [www.recyclehawaii.org](http://www.recyclehawaii.org). For more information contact Marsha Hee, Recycle Hawai'i Education Director, at 985-8725 or email: [hiartrecycle@gmail.com](mailto:hiartrecycle@gmail.com)

## OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROGRAMS

### Zero Waste & Recycle Hawai'i Seeks Funds

In 1989, a group of young, idealistic newcomers to Hawai'i, frustrated over the lack of recycling services in the islands, set out to change things by literally taking matters into their own hands. They used a number of tactics, one of which was to divert plastic, paper and tin cans going into county trash roll-offs to the back of their parked cars instead. Nearly a quarter of a century later, the 501(c)3 educational non-profit they formed in 1992 has become **RECYCLE HAWAII** with 19 fulltime employees providing a range of recycling and related educational services, including the operation of six re-use centers across Hawai'i Island.

While the development of our organization has been largely funded by contracts with the Hawai'i County Department of Environmental Management, the recent loss of one of those contracts, worth \$100,000, has brought our zero waste outreach and education programs to a screeching halt, compelling us to launch this fundraising campaign.

**We seek to raise \$60,000 with all contributions going directly towards continuing outreach education programs.** The funds will be allocated as follows:

- \$10,000 for **Zero Waste School Presentations** to students and teachers K-12,
- \$10,000 for **Art & Science of Recycling** project where K-12 students apply STEM concepts to create art and innovations from reusable, recyclable materials,
- \$25,000 to continue **Composting is Recycling, Too!** education workshops offered throughout Hawai'i Island,
- \$15,000 for additional outreach efforts:
  - The **Recycling InfoLines**, a 24/7 answering service for Hawai'i Island where callers can get answers to their recycling questions,
  - The **Hawai'i Island Recycling Guide**, a complete listing of local recycling services, updated regularly, widely distributed & available on RH website,
  - The **Recycle Hawai'i website upgrade**, to better provide recycling & educational resources, news, articles and notice of events,
  - **Zero Waste community event support & training.**

The above list is ordered by priority, with funding below the goal allocated accordingly. Extra funds would be used to continue programs into the next fiscal year. All funds raised can also serve as matching funds to garner grants.

### OUR IMPACT

Over the past nine years, the Art of Recycling project has attracted 4,500 participants with 1,650 of them being student artists. For many of the students, the competition allows them to re-imagine the wasteful practices they are exposed to on a regular basis.

Since its inception in 2004, "Composting is Recycling, Too!" home composting and vermiculture workshops have taught islandwide participants how to turn food scraps, food contaminated paper and yard trimmings into valuable soil amendments. In addition, a total of 4,050 Earth Machines were distributed to schools and households, providing the potential to divert up to 405,000 tons of materials from the landfill, a \$79.50 savings per ton on what it costs our local government to landfill.

RH's Zero Waste Initiative assists community event organizers to create a waste-free event by installing and managing sort stations that protect the value of discarded items by this hands-on diversion method that has achieved an average 90% diversion rate. . . much to the amazement and delight of all involved.

### OUR REQUEST

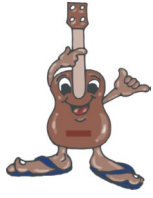
RH considers no donation too small and all amounts are greatly appreciated. Any effort to spread the word about their fundraising campaign by word of mouth or social media applications is also helpful. **Contributions can be made by:**

- **Crowdfunding:** 'Zero Waste & Recycle Hawaii' [www.indiegogo.com](http://www.indiegogo.com) by 4/25/15
- **Mail:** check payable to Recycle Hawaii, P.O. Box 4847, Hilo, HI 96720
- **Website:** Donate online at [www.recyclehawaii.org/memberdonate.html](http://www.recyclehawaii.org/memberdonate.html)

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**For information on recycling or Recycling & Reuse Centers visit**  
**[www.recyclehawaii.org](http://www.recyclehawaii.org) or email [info@recyclehawaii.org](mailto:info@recyclehawaii.org).**

## KOA'S CORNER



### Happy Earth Day Everyone!!

In a few weeks people from around the world will join together to raise their voices in a big cheer for our Earth.

Forty-five years ago on April 22, 1970, twenty million Americans from all walks of life participated in the first Earth Day. This event is widely credited with launching the modern environmental movement. Today over a billion people in countries around the world participate in Earth Day events and projects.

"Everyday is Earth Day" and "Think Globally, Act Locally" are now common sayings. It's time to remember the wonderful gifts that our Earth shares with us everyday and to act in ways that show how much we love our beautiful home.

**Earth Patriot: Origins**, a project of Earth Patriot Productions, is a new young adult novel written by Howard Shapiro, former RH Education Director, in collaboration with Hawaiian culture and language consultant Leilehua Yuen and artist-musician Bolo.

*Earth Patriot: Origins* is about the beginnings of a Hawaiian super-hero who incorporates into his life the best of traditional Native Hawaiian culture with that of modern society. It also speaks about the importance of 'ohana, or family, and addresses environmental issues including climate change, GMOs, land and water rights. Appropriate for grade 6-12 readers, the novel promotes values and principles such as: respecting cultures around the world, caring for others in need, respecting knowledge and wisdom of ancestors and using one's creative talents to inspire others.

The book will be released on Earth Day during Environmental Education Week (April 19-25) on Amazon's Kindle eBooks. For a preview, visit <http://www.earthpatriotproductions.com/news.html>; contact info: (808) 985-8725, [earthpatriots@gmail.com](mailto:earthpatriots@gmail.com).

## March 1 - May 31, 2015: GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN UP

### Keeping Our Beaches Beautiful

#### • Letter submitted by Jordan Grainger, a KPB volunteer

I have been working with Cynthia Ho of Keep Puako Beautiful (KPB) for almost three years doing beach cleanups. I also manage an Ocean Environmental Education Station (OEEES) box that contains information pamphlets about marine debris and general ocean awareness. I collect data and restock the OEEES at Hapuna Beach weekly. Together with Cynthia, my mother and I also clean up the parking lot and beach for about twenty minutes while we're there. This 15-20 minute 'speed cleanup' makes a major difference on the cleanliness of this park overtime.

In the past year, I have also begun coordinating larger beach cleanups including two of them through my school, Hawai'i Preparatory Academy (HPA). In November 2014, thirteen student volunteers from HPA did a speed-cleanup at Waialea Bay and also at the cliff area above Beach 67, where we found a construction dumpsite and removed more than 700 pounds or about 5700 pieces of debris. Two months later, I returned with HPA's Girls Soccer varsity team where twenty of us removed nearly 1,000 pieces of litter. It is so rewarding to see that the work we do makes a dramatic difference on the health and beauty of the beaches near my home. I urge everyone to participate in local beach clean ups, and to take a few minutes to regularly pick up trash as you enjoy the beautiful beaches of our island. Every little bit makes a big difference.

**Join me and other Keep Puako Beautiful volunteers at the Puako Boat Ramp on Saturday, April 25 at 7:30am for a beach cleanup in honor of Earth Month. For information, contact: [kpb@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kpb@hawaii.rr.com)**

• April 22 HBO's "Saving My Tomorrow" includes Hawai'i Cleanup  
Keep Puako Beautiful is honored to be included in HBO's "Saving My Tomorrow" series, featuring children on the environment and climate change. HBO asked KPB volunteers for videos of young volunteers in the 2013 International Coastal Cleanup "Get the Drift & Bag It." This series features music/songs, museum scientists, portraits of animals and plants affected by a changing planet, and kids' heartfelt tips for taking better care of the earth. Get aquatinted with the positive impact children are having on our natural environment. Part 3 airs on Wed. April 22 at 7:30 pm. To view trailer, visit HBO on Demand and HBO GO link: <http://www.hbo.com/documentaries/saving-my-tomorrow/synopsis.html#/>

• VOLUNTEERS Keep Our Oceans & Land Healthy  
Hawai'i Wildlife Fund HWF is calling all island residents and business owners to help support our continued community cleanup events on Hawai'i Island after our marine debris removal funding lapses on June 30th, 2015 Help us reach our goal of 200 tons removed from Hawai'i Island! To support HWF travel expenses, beach cleanup or education supplies, or in any other way, please email: [kahakai.cleanup@gmail.com](mailto:kahakai.cleanup@gmail.com).

## BECOME A MEMBER OF RECYCLE HAWAII

### Sponsoring Contributor

Non-Profit - \$50  
Corporate - \$100

### Individual Contributor

Student / Senior - \$10  
Individual - \$20 • Family - \$30

### Other Contributors

Friend - \$50 • Lifetime - \$50  
Donor - \$100 • Patron - \$250

**Go to [www.recyclehawaii.org](http://www.recyclehawaii.org) now** and become a supportive member of our recycling community!