

# Keeping It Green

Summer 2015, Volume VI, No. 3



A publication of Recycle Hawai'i

## Message from the Executive Director



### Year in Review – July 2014 to June 2015

This past year has been most challenging in our efforts to carry out the mission of Recycle Hawai'i (RH) – hampered by the cancellation of the long-standing County of HI Dept. of Environmental Management (COH-DEM) Outreach & Education contract managed by RH for well over a decade. Our members and Board of Directors steadfastly opposed any efforts to saddle island residents with an ill-conceived mass burn waste-to-energy proposal. In doing so, our educational efforts targeting generations of Hawai'i Island students, community organizations, and the public at large, although completely in sync with recommendations by the Integrated Resources/Solid Waste Management planning commission, were diametrically opposed to the current administration's plans for handling the island's solid waste.

RH relied on a combination of reserve funds (\$40,000+) and a private foundation grant (\$20,000) to carry out its educational mission, responding to requests from teachers and the community for the following projects, workshops, presentations and community events covered by its educators:

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Recycle Bowl 2014** – nationwide school recycling initiative sponsored by Keep America Beautiful, was coordinated statewide by RH Education Director, Marsha Hee, Keep the Hawaiian Islands Beautiful and Malama Maui Nui affiliates. Local businesses donated cash awards for Hawai'i school winners. The Volcano School of Arts and Sciences PCS was awarded \$1,000 as State Champion for recycling the most pounds per school capita over the 4 week competition from October 20 to November 15, 2014.

March 2015: RH was a sponsor, planner, and participant with Hawai'i Zero Waste (ZW) Alliance/ZW USA in a 2-day series of statewide stakeholders' meetings pursuing initiatives/projects, programs and strategies to move Hawai'i towards zero waste practices for sustainable resource management. RH members voted at our June 20 Annual Meeting to affiliate with the ZW Alliance, ZW USA, and ZW International dba "**Zero Waste Hawai'i**" when focusing on ZW efforts.

Recycle Hawai'i has for over 15 years provided instruction on ways to reduce organics in landfills through **Backyard Composting Workshops**, including the distribution of over 3,000 Earth Machine home composting units. RH sponsored 27 island-wide composting workshops for 134 households at our own expense before ending this program before funding ran out on March 31.

April-May 2015: **10th Annual Art & Science of Recycling Project** had over 3500 students, teachers and school 'ohana viewing campus exhibits by participating elementary schools Kahakai and Kealakehe in West Hawai'i; DeSilva, Hilo Union, Pahoa, Waiakea, Waiakeawaena and St. Joseph Middle Schools in East Hawai'i.

**School & University Recycle Education Presentations (7):** Pahala Summer Fun, St. Joseph High Interact Club, Kona Mom's, Hilo Head Start, UH-Hilo Social/Human Services Course and Waiakea Elementary-Grade 2.

**Community Events (12):** July 4th Volcano Celebration, Pupu Palooza – Kalani Honua, 20th Kona Brewfest, Avocado Festival – Keauhou (ZW events); Hawai'i Island Trash Art Exhibit – Hawai'i Museum of Contemporary Art, America Recycles Day – Palace Theatre, Hilo; "Trashed" film and forum – NELHA, Honoka'a People's Theatre, Uncle Robert's in Kalapana; ZW Statewide Stakeholders' Meetings – WHI Civic Center; Recycle Bowl Awards Ceremony – VSAS PCS; Haute Trash Fashion Show – Palace Theatre, Hilo (Earth Day).

Recycle Hawai'i continued the **Do-It-Yourself-Used Motor Oil (DIY-UMO)** recycling program at seven depots island-wide with State Department of Health (DOH)/COH funding for FY ending June 30. The program is designed to protect the environment from improper disposal of toxic and carcinogenic oil. To make matters worse, DOH curtailed funding statewide for DIY-UMO as of July 1, 2015. We trust that the upwards of 16,000 gallons of used motor oil generated annually by DIY-UMO island residents will continue to be recycled since future funding for this program has yet to be secured.

"Still Good Stuff" sales and weekly "free days" at **Recycling & Reuse Centers (RRCs)** continue under RH management at Kea'au, Pāhoa, Kealakehe, Keauhou, Waimea and Hawi COH Transfer Stations. Due to shifting County DEM priorities, we have been waiting since February 2014 to begin diverting useful materials at the Hilo Transfer Station back into the economic mainstream that would otherwise go to the landfill.

Welcome to RH **Board of Directors for FY2015/16** elected at our 23rd Annual Meeting on June 20: Jenna Long - President, Angela Kang - VP & Treasurer Pro Tem, Terri Markovich – Secretary, Georjean Adams, James Goodloe, Steven Philips, Randyl Rugar, Scot Sanderson and Susan Wang.

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.

## STAFF/BOARD

### Board of Directors

President: Jenna Long

Vice President: Angela Kang

Secretary: Terri R. Markovich

Treasurer pro tem: Angela Kang  
Georjean Adams, James Goodloe,  
Steven Phillips, Randy R. Rupa,  
Scot Sanderson & Suzanne Wang

### Recycle Hawai'i Staff

Exec. Director: Paul J. Buklarewicz

Education Director: Marsha Hee

### DIY-Used Motor Oil Program

Project Manager: Marsha Hee

### Art & Science of Recycling

Project Coordinator: Marsha Hee

### Recycling & Reuse Centers

Project Manager: Travis Olson

West HI Supervisor: Allen Brock

East HI Supervisor: Jeremias Watson

Coordinators:

**Hawi:** Keith Christmas

**Kea'au:** Mike Backus, Roy Bath,  
Martin Gross, Ted Navarro, David  
Tai & Jeremias (Mikel) Watson

**Kealahou:** Deanna Estes-Pogue &  
Allen Brock

**Keauhou:** Cindy Steele-Felder &  
Bobby Ludwig

**Pāhoa:** Mike Hamini &  
Peggy Keehne

**Waimea:** Philip Castro,  
Joey Rogers & Darlene Woolford

### Newsletter

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Marsha Hee & Howard Shapiro

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It features the work of RH staff and  
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at large. Announcements of events  
are published as space allows.

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## Upcoming EVENTS

### • KTA's Kokua I Na Kula on Hawai'i Island

*August 5 to Sept 15, 2015*

*Students collect Mylar snack wrappers for bonus points towards their school's share of \$100,000 for school equipment, beautification projects & extra-curricular activities.*

### • 2015 Recycle-Bowl Contest open to all schools in Hawai'i

*Aug 3 – Oct 13 Schools Register*

*Oct 19 – Nov 15 Hold Competition*

*Nov 16 – Dec 15 Report Data*

### • 2015 America Recycles Day – November 15

*Open to schools, businesses, organizations and individuals; details TBA*

### • Great American Cleanup – March 1 to May 31, 2016

*Nationwide beautification, garden/planting & recycling initiative*

### • Art & Science of Recycling Projects – April 2016

*Reusable & recyclable materials for creative, innovative & STEM projects.*

*Open to Hawaii Island K-12 students & schools; register by 3/30/16.*

### • Think Yellow Go Green – April 22 to May 22, 2016\*

*Yellow Pages directory school recycling contest; \*dates subject to change, details TBA*



## IN MEMORIAM Mabel Andrade

Mabel joined RH in May  
2006 and has served for  
the past nine years at  
the Kea'au Recycling &  
Reuse Center as  
Supervisor/Cashier. She  
will be missed by her  
co-workers and KRRC  
patrons who will  
remember "Aunty Mei"

for her cheerful and friendly demeanor. The RH staff, Board and  
members wish to express sincere condolences to Mei's family.



## Recycle Hawai'i

PO Box 4847 • Hilo HI 96720

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For information about recycling, composting, education programs,  
zero waste and Recycling & Reuse Centers visit

[www.recyclehawaii.org](http://www.recyclehawaii.org) or contact [info@recyclehawaii.org](mailto:info@recyclehawaii.org).

## ***In the News***

### **Zero Waste Project for North Hawai'i Schools**

Through funding from the Swain Barber Foundation a comprehensive Zero Waste School Initiative was mounted at Hawai'i Preparatory Academy (HPA) in grades K-8 for 2014-2015. The notable success of the project motivated District 9 County Councilmember Margaret Wille to secure contingency funds in the amount of \$10,000 for RH to expand the Zero Waste Project to HPA's upper grade levels and to other schools in North and South Kohala. Composting educators Samantha Robinson and Noah Dodd, who led ZW activities at Kohala Middle School and HPA respectively, will manage the pilot project in the upcoming 2015-2016 SY.

### ***National Litter Cleanup Initiative*** **Great American Cleanup**

For the past 17 years, Keep Puakō Beautiful (KPB), a grassroots partnership, has organized numerous beach and shoreline cleanups.

For this year's Great American Cleanup, KPB held 16 cleanups from March to May 2015. Cleanup sites were Puakō Beach Drive, Puakō Boat Ramp, Paniau and Holoholokai Parks, Waialeale (Beach 69 & Beach 67) and other sites in the Hāpuna State Recreation Area (a 600 acre park). Seventy-four volunteers donated 155 hours removing 628 pounds or 6704 pieces of trash from which 331 pieces were recycled. KPB's Hāpuna Beach Recreational Area cleanups had 25 volunteers donating 89 hours to remove 6025 pounds of trash.

Local sponsors for KPB were 2 Papayas LLC, Annie Mendoza,

*(Continued on page 4)*

## ***Outreach & Education Programs***

### **CAPtured Grant Update**

The students and staff at Connections Public Charter School have long been committed to recycling and are very aware of it's importance in our Hawai'i Island environment.

The school's Makery program is proud to be participating in the CAPtured Grant program with Recycle Hawai'i and consider it a "seed" opportunity to expand our efforts at recycling. Our Makery students have designed and fabricated collection boxes for plastic bottle tops. The State's HI-5 program has been effective in diverting plastic bottles from our landfills, but the caps have been a problem. By placing the collection boxes at our school entrance, and promoting the program in our weekly newsletter, "Stay Connected", we have gathered hundreds of plastic caps.

During the 2015 Fall semester, we will grind the caps to produce a material that can be converted into a variety of products. We realize that our efforts utilize a small portion of the plastics left for trash on Hawai'i Island, but believe it's important to show that useful items can be made from this discarded resource material.

Products we plan to produce include refrigerator magnets and jewelry. We have also obtained a small cement mixer which will enable us to use larger quantities of reclaimed material in the manufacture of cast "stepping stones" and architectural bricks.



***These products made by CPCS middle & high school students feature original designs lasered onto veneer & reused boxboard. Photo credit: Connections PCS***

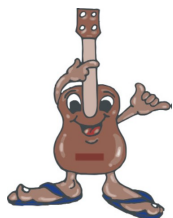
Please look for pictures of our recycled products made from plastic bottle caps in the near future.

Mahalo to Recycle Hawai'i for all that you do.

Aloha,  
Greg Henkel, Bill Thorpe  
(teachers)  
and the Connections Makery  
students



*'A'ole pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi*  
**Connections Public Charter School**



## KOA'S CORNER

### Simple Actions Go Far

We hear about many problems facing our world and sometimes we may think, "Does it matter what I do? It probably won't change anything." Yet our actions, however minor they may seem, can make a positive difference towards solving environmental problems in our community and in the world.

Share and practice these easy yet important Earth Patriot (EP) Action Tips with your family and friends:

- **Pack a reusable fork** from home for school lunch, community event or party to reduce single-use disposable plastic utensils going into the landfill.

**Picture this:** if all the students in Hawai'i schools did this for one school lunch day, it would keep about 200,000 plastic utensils and 2,000 boxes or bags of packaging out of the landfill. That would also save thousands of dollars for cafeteria managers.

- **Compost or recycle** non-coated paper, boxboard, cardboard or wooden products & packaging.



- Recycle plastic products with these codes in Mixed Recyclable bins at

Transfer Stations including #4 plastic bags (place them knotted into larger bag).



**Did you know? Styrofoam & clear plastic #6** (clean & dry off food residue) can be dropped off with no fee to Mr. K's Recycle & Redemption on the corner of Kinoole & Hualalai in Hilo.

- This summer the City and County of Honolulu joins the rest of the state in banning the distribution of plastic bags from grocery stores. **Remember to bring a reusable bag, box or basket when shopping** to reduce plastic bags littering our roadways, ending up along shorelines and in the ocean. This simple action will help safeguard marine life from ingesting plastic bags and being killed or badly hurt.

- **Start taking action today!** What actions are you taking in your home or school to keep our land and ocean clean and healthy? Share your EP action news with our friends at Recycle Hawai'i and include a photo to: [hiartrecycle@gmail.com](mailto:hiartrecycle@gmail.com)

*(Great American Cleanup continued from page 3)*

Grainger 'ohana, Jeff Fear and the West Hawai'i Community Beach Cleanup. To join KPB volunteers in keeping our ocean and land clean and healthy, contact [kpb@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kpb@hawaii.rr.com)

Other Hawai'i Island cleanups took place at school campuses by students and teachers of Konawaena Middle School and Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo PCS as well as by members of the Rotary Club of Volcano along Highway 11 in the Volcano Village area. Kudos to other community groups who participated in cleanup and recycling efforts in their community statewide.

Hawai'i Island groups that do cleanups, beautification, gardens or recycle projects may contact: Marsha Hee, Recycle Hawai'i Education Director at [hiartrecycle@gmail.com](mailto:hiartrecycle@gmail.com) or 985-8725.



*Erica Perez documents trash at West HI Community Beach Cleanup at Paniau. Photo by Cynthia Ho*

## SUPPORT RECYCLE HAWAI'I

### 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

**Sign up at [www.recyclehawaii.org](http://www.recyclehawaii.org) to become a supportive member of our recycling community!**