Kōkua Hawai‘i Foundation supports environmental education in Hawai‘i’s schools and communities. Our mission is to provide students with experiences that will enhance their appreciation for and understanding of their environment so they will be lifelong stewards of the earth.

We participate in a variety of environmental education initiatives in Hawai‘i. Our five main programs include ‘ĀINA In Schools, 3Rs School Recycling, KHF Field Trip Grants, KHF Project Grants, and Plastic Free Hawai‘i.

In 2019 KHF acquired 8 acres of land in the heart of Hale‘iwa with a vision to establish agricultural, educational, and retail activities that benefit the community and promote local food, waste reduction, and environmental stewardship. The property will house the Kōkua Community Center, 3 mission-aligned businesses (Kōkua General Store, Kōkua Vintage, ‘ĀINA Farm Stand), the Kōkua Learning Farm, and our KHF support offices.

‘ĀINA In Schools is a farm to school initiative that connects children to their local land, waters, and food to grow a healthier Hawai‘i.

Kōkua Hawai‘i Foundation works directly with 23 O‘ahu elementary schools that implement the ‘ĀINA In Schools program.

With students learning at home for much of the year, ‘ĀINA Lessons took different forms at each school. We’re inspired by our partner schools and teachers who created innovative ways for their students to experience ‘ĀINA Lessons and concepts at home and on campus. ‘ĀINA Schools that opted to continue providing adapted ‘ĀINA Lessons received soil, seeds, kalo huli, plant starters, and ‘ĀINA Student Workbooks according to their needs. Through a grant from Whole Foods Market and in-kind donations from Lowe’s, we distributed 300 ‘ĀINA Garden Kits to teachers and classrooms at 46 O‘ahu schools. These ‘ĀINA-themed garden kits included seeds, informational bookmarks, plant starters, books and garden tools to get students planting at school or at home. Additional ‘ĀINA School highlights include:

- Blanche Pope students took home kalo to grow with their families;
- Hale‘iwa second graders received Nutrition Lessons and also raised caterpillars at home and at school to observe the butterfly life cycle;
- Hau‘ula distributed salad planting kits to all students;
- Kahuku keiki received ‘ĀINA Lessons and participated in a school garden club;
- Liholiho’s ‘ĀINA Team Coordinator led Nutrition Lessons online from her kitchen;
- Sunset Beach sixth graders visited the Kōkua Learning Farm virtually;
- Wai‘alae’s fourth graders grew a Hawaiian Garden; and
- Waialua’s third graders received virtual Compost Lessons from a long-time ‘ĀINA Docent.

KHF also worked with Waialua and Nu‘uanu Elementary Schools to replace 7 garden beds and with Hale‘iwa Elementary to establish 2 new garden beds and a nursery. Irrigation systems were also installed to support these gardens.

KHF staff developed videos inspired by ‘ĀINA Garden, Compost, and Nutrition Lessons for teachers to share with their students and families. Featuring KHF staff and local keiki, these videos include lesson content, activities, how-tos, and recipes from the ‘ĀINA In Schools Curriculum. Staff also recorded webinars for educators leading ‘ĀINA lessons. Videos are posted on our website at kokuahawaiifoundation.org/ainavideos.

KHF took our ‘ĀINA Chef Visits online this year. 378 people took part in the October Farm to School Month ‘ĀINA Cooking For Change virtual family cooking series. We partnered with five local chefs to host live online workshops and the Hawai‘i ‘Ulu Co-op to feature ‘ulu in each recipe. We also partnered with Chef Hui to distribute cooking kits with ingredients for each weekly recipe. In November, we partnered with Chef Hui and Whole Foods Market to distribute Mahi’ai Meal Kits filled with ingredients to 600 families at 4 ‘ĀINA Schools. In December over 200 people joined the ‘ĀINA Cooking For Change Holiday Series with Master Food Preserver Terri Langley. Chef Hui provided 150 cooking kits featuring fresh produce for workshop participants. All ‘ĀINA Cooking for Change videos are available to rewatch on our website at bit.ly/ainac4c.

www.Kokuahawaiifoundation.org
Kōkua Hawai‘i Foundation Hale‘iwa Property

Since acquiring 8 acres in the heart of Hale‘iwa in 2019, we’ve been busy working towards establishing mission driven agricultural, educational, and retail activities.

To see a video presentation about our vision for the Hale‘iwa property, go to kokuahawaiifoundation.org/haleiwa.

The Kōkua Learning Farm covers 7 acres with a variety of eco-zones which will showcase several aspects of our local food system. These include ʻĀINA In Schools demonstration gardens, production fields, orchards, native constructed wetlands, lo‘i, native plants, and a compost area that all provide educational opportunities for keiki and community. It is our hope that this farm will blossom into an educational and agricultural destination, encouraging learners of all ages to actively support their local food system.

In the last year, we welcomed our first cohort of middle and high school farm interns, grew many rounds of vegetables, and expanded our nursery. With the help of 621 volunteers over 1,448 hours we have grew and experimented with more than 60 different crop varieties in our vegetable patch. The kalo library currently hosts 26 different Hawaiian cultivars and will be ready to huki and distribute to ʻĀINA Schools at the beginning of the coming school year. Our demonstration plots are seeded and growing in anticipation of this fall’s ʻĀINA In Schools Educator Trainings on the Kōkua Learning Farm.

This work has been made possible through community efforts on 28 workdays through 2021 and the assistance of volunteer groups from Patagonia, Chef Hui, Pacific American Foundation’s WIRED program, KI-ELE, Lowe’s, Monkeypod Kitchen, Moku Kitchen, Punahou School, Veterans United, Waiman Valley, WATG, and 53 by the Sea who bring their employees, partners, friends and family out for a day of work and learning on the farm.

In April, over 30 local farmers joined us for an Electric Tractor Demo Day on the farm to learn about our new electric tractor (donated by Solectrac) and how Hawai‘i can transition to a carbon-free farming future.

We are also excited to introduce two new farm partnerships! Carey Bonn, of Diamond Island Farm, will be tending an acre and a half of the Kōkua Learning Farm. We look forward to his assistance in establishing farm systems and providing more food for the community. Beekeeper Katie Metzger of Hānai Hives placed bee hives on the farm to provide an on-site home for these pollinators that are crucial to our food system.

As we focus on providing learning opportunities and producing local food at the farm, we are also excited to share lessons beyond Hawai‘i’s shores. Kōkua Hawai‘i Foundation co-founders Kim & Jack Johnson kicked off the 35th Annual Farm Aid from the Kōkua Learning Farm. Jack played a few songs amongst the kalo with Mt. Ka‘ala in the background and shared our vision for the Kōkua Learning Farm with viewers.

The progress we’ve made with the help of our volunteers and partners so far is inspiring and we look forward to sharing the fruits of our labor soon!

www.Kokuahawaiifoundation.org
Our vision for the Kōkua General Store is to create a bulk, refill, low waste, and eco-friendly lifestyle products store. The Kōkua General Store will provide the community the tools they need to reduce waste in their lives.

Over three weekends in December, the Kōkua General Store hosted a series of Simplify the Holidays pop-ups as well as the Plastic Free Hawai‘i Art Show. We also sold Plastic Free Hawai‘i reusable items and sustainable gifts created by local businesses and artisans.

The Kōkua General Store was open again for the Plastic Free Hawai‘i School Mural Contest Art Show in April, with teachers, students, and their families connecting over art. Starting in June, the Kōkua General Store is open for first Saturday of the month pop-ups!

Kōkua Vintage will have curated collections of second-hand clothing, records, books, housewares, artwork and more; promoting second-hand over new. The Kōkua Vintage space will be a section within the Kōkua General Store.

As part of a series of Kōkua Vintage pop-ups, we've partnered with Back in the Day Hawai‘i, Green Gypsy, Hungry Ear Records, Maitais & Rainbow, Mark Cunningham, Mā‘umā‘u Mamas, On a Wing and a Prayer, Rex the Surf Dog, and others to offer vintage clothing, records, and books for sale.

At the ĀINA Farm Stand we will share the bounty of local food producers. The ĀINA Farm stand will sell farm-fresh produce from the Kōkua Learning Farm and other local farmers and producers, as well as value-added products, locally grown flowers & lei, and be a CSA and CSF (community supported fisheries) pick up location.

The ĀINA Farm Stand has been utilized as a place to connect with the community and share our vision for our new home. We've held a series of pop-ups at the ĀINA Farm Stand, distributing ingredient kits for the ĀINA Cooking for Change series. We sold ĀINA Garden Kits that included seeds, plant starters, garden tools, and gloves so keiki could plant their own ĀINA-themed gardens at home. We've also used the site to distribute free ĀINA Garden Kits to O‘ahu educators and celebrated Plant A Seed Day in March at the ĀINA Farm Stand, sharing free seeds with community members.

The Kōkua Backyard Garden will be a welcoming edible and native landscape where the community can come to learn and draw inspiration to cultivate household food production and composting skills.

The vision for this space was created in partnership with WATG as part of their Deserving Designs Award. WATG and Waimea Valley staff helped to plant native plants along the backyard’s fence line. We are excited to begin more extensive development of this space in the near future!

Kōkua Community Center will be a gathering place for the community to learn, share skills, stories and ideas, through workshops, classes and other learning opportunities.

Mahalo! Many thanks to those who have provided in-kind donations of goods and services to help with the construction and development of the farm, storefronts, and community center. Mahalo to Eric Saavedra; Ferguson; GoFarm; Hawaiian Earth Products; Home Depot; Honsador; Inter-Fluve; Lowe’s; McNulty Civil Engineering; Pacific American Foundation WIRED Program; Pacific Source; Parker Sawyer; Pono Home; RevoluSun; Reed Commercial Construction; Shore Up Designs Solectrac; Surveyors Hawai‘i; Trent Johnson, General Contractor, LLC; Twin Bridge Farms; Waimea Valley; WATG; Wholesale Cabinets; and WORKSHOP-HI. See an updated list of these partners at kokuahawaiifoundation.org/haleiwa/partners.

www.Kokuahawaiifoundation.org
3Rs School Recycling Program empowers students to engage and educate their school community about the 3Rs—reduce, reuse, recycle.

KHF supports O‘ahu schools with their on-campus recycling, waste auditing, and composting solutions. KHF hosted 15 3Rs Recycling Drives this school year, where nearly 150,000 pounds of metals, electronics, beverage containers, paper, batteries, household items, and oil were collected and diverted from the waste stream. 150 adult volunteers assisted at these recycling drives, with proceeds from the sale of select recycled materials going directly back to the host schools. Recycling partners include Schnitzer Steel, T&N Computer Recycling, Pacific Biodiesel, RRR Recycling, Hawaiian Hope, and Habitat for Humanity Honolulu’s ReStore.

Plastic Free Hawai‘i seeks to minimize single-use plastics by educating and empowering schools, businesses & community members across Hawai‘i.

116 volunteers participated in 4 beach cleanups in partnership with Sustainable Coastlines Hawai‘i and UH College of Education STEMS² Program, removing 1,084 pounds of debris from North Shore beaches. KHF staff gave 20 virtual school presentations to a total of 372 students and 46 educators.

The PFH School Mural Contest included 7 school entries and engaged a total of 150 students and 17 educators. The PFH School Mural Contest culminated into our first PFH School Mural Art Show at the Kōkua General Store with over 100 people attending. Kahalu‘u Elementary School was the grand prize winner and received an Elkay Water Refill Station for their school and a virtual presentation from Upcycle Hawai‘i.

PFH participated in 20 socially distanced community outreach events on O‘ahu, supported by 27 PFH volunteers who gave 77 volunteer hours, reaching over 1,400 community members. PFH partner Bishop Museum continues to offer use of our PFH Water Refill Station to their visitors. PFH supported Art Explorium’s Open House for Educators 2.0 where 54 PFH Simplify the Holidays Creative Reuse stARTer Kits were distributed to educators.

12 PFH retailers continue to carry PFH merchandise, including Barrio Cafe, Celestial Natural Foods, Cove Collection, Global Village, Growing Keiki, Guava Shop, Hale‘iwa Bottle Shop, Just Kiddies, Kai Kū Hale, Kailua Beach Adventures, North Shore Soap Factory, and The Soap Cellar.

Kōkua Hawai‘i Foundation Project Grants support teachers and students from Hawai‘i schools in advancing their environmental education goals and pursuing innovative stewardship projects in and out of the classroom.

KHF Project Grants have supported 16 K-12 projects and 3 early childhood education projects this school year. Grants included funding for garden teacher trainings, outdoor learning spaces and gardens, as well as seed packet distribution to students for garden lessons happening at home via distance learning. The Hawai‘i Youth Sustainability Challenge supported student-led projects through funding and mentorship from KHF in partnership with Kupu. 18 student groups from 13 schools participated in either student-identified or community partnership challenges to address a conservation or sustainability need. Project topics included composting, recycling and repurposing, gardening, and feeding communities.

Kōkua Hawai‘i Foundation Field Trip Grants give schools the financial assistance needed to bring students to outdoor sites where they can experience hands-on learning about Hawai‘i’s environment.

While safety restrictions prevented many schools from taking field trips this year, one school was able to use a KHF Field Trip Grant to safely take their Grade 5 students on multiple farm field trips. KHF grant applications are being accepted for the 2021-2022 school year. We encourage teachers to apply for field trips grants through our website.