

Simplify the Holidays



KŌKUA HAWAI'I FOUNDATION RESOURCE GUIDE

Green Holiday Educator Guide, Vol. 2

HOLIDAY CRAFTS & GREEN GIVING

• RECYCLED JAR SNOW GLOBES

Small recycled jar with lid, paint, plastic bottle cap, small figurine, driftwood, shells or other found objects, small pieces of marine debris, hot glue gun, water, glycerin



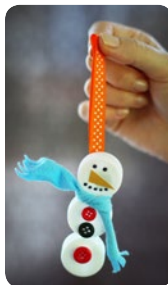
1. Choose small recycled jars with a nice shape. Jam, jelly, mustard, and honey jars work best. Curved edges will magnify the contents inside the snow globe.
2. Remove lid from jar and paint a fun color. Leave to dry.
3. Use a hot glue gun (or super glue) to glue the bottle cap onto the inside of the lid as a pedestal. Let dry.
4. Glue a figurine, found objects such as driftwood and seashells, or other decorations onto the pedestal. Set lid aside to dry.
5. Fill your empty jar with water.
6. Sprinkle in glitter and some small marine debris snowflakes.
7. Add a squeeze of glycerin. Glycerin makes the "snow" fall slower.
8. Make sure the glue securing figurines and pedestal is completely dry, then flip lid over and screw tightly onto the jar. Some excess water may come out—just dry this with a towel.
9. Turn jar over, gently shake, and enjoy!



• BOTTLE CAP SNOWMEN ORNAMENTS

Bottle caps, paint, glue, ribbon, black and orange permanent markers

1. Collect white plastic bottle caps in varying sizes. If using metal bottle caps, paint them white.
3. Glue three bottle caps to a piece of ribbon. Form a loop with the top of the ribbon and glue in place.
4. Use permanent markers to draw eyes, nose, a mouth, and buttons on your snowman.
5. Tie a recycled ribbon or "t-shirt string" around the snowman's neck to make a scarf.



• SPARKLY SEED ORNAMENT BALLS

Flower or herb seeds*, organic potting soil, dry clay, string, water, glitter, spices (cinnamon, cloves, etc.), cookie sheet, wax paper

*Be sure to use seeds from native or non-invasive plants.

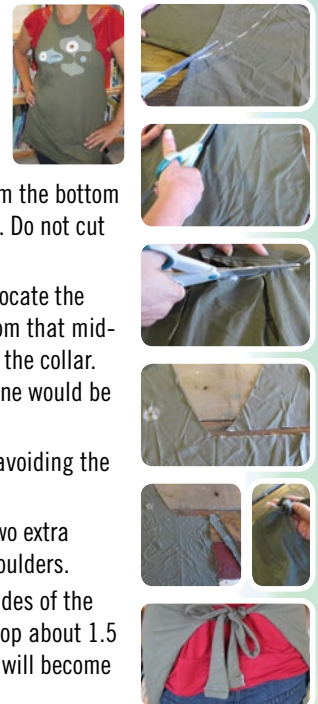
1. Mix seeds, glitter, spices, and potting soil together.
2. Add dry clay and mix again.
3. Slowly add water while still mixing the seeds, potting soil, and water into a well-blended thick paste.
4. Cut a 2-3 inch piece of twine, ribbon, or string per seed ball.
5. Mold the mixture into small (~1 inch diameter) balls and put two loose ends of string into the center of the ball.
8. Place on a cookie sheet or tray lined with wax paper.
9. Allow balls to dry in the sun for at least one day. Hang on your tree to enjoy during the holidays, then toss into your garden when done!



• UPCYCLED T-SHIRT APRON

T-shirt, sharp scissors

1. Lay shirt down flat with back facing up.
2. Cut the sleeves off the t-shirt from the bottom of the sleeve up toward the collar. Do not cut the collar.
3. On the bottom edge of the shirt, locate the middle along the hemline. Cut from that mid-point all the way up to just under the collar. This should be cut where your spine would be in the t-shirt.
4. Cut along the edge of the collar, avoiding the collar ring. Remove tag.
5. Unfold the shirt and cut off the two extra pieces of back fabric near the shoulders.
6. Cut a two inch strip along both sides of the shirt starting from the bottom. Stop about 1.5 inches from the top. These strips will become your apron ties.
7. Make a knot where each tie meets the apron body.



Wrap It Up Green:

• CEREAL BOX GIFT BAGS

1. Cut the top off an empty cereal box.
2. Decorate the outside of the bag with paint, newspaper, magazine clippings, photos, or fabric.
3. Punch four holes near the opening of the box, two on either long side.
4. Thread recycled ribbon or “t-shirt string” through the holes to create a handle on either side of the bag.



• MAGAZINE GIFT WRAP BOWS

1. Cut a magazine page lengthwise into nine 3/4-inch-thick strips of various heights. For example, three strips at 11 inches, three strips at 10 inches, two strips at 9 inches, and one strip at 3 1/2 inches.
2. Twist each strip to form a loop at each end. With the shortest strip, make a circle.
3. Use double sided tape to tape down the ends of your loops creating a figure eight.
4. Layer each bow securing with tape in a star shape with the longest bows at the bottom and up to the shortest on top. The circle should be the last placed bow in the center.
5. Place on top of a gift!



Homemade Goodness:

- Let's pickle it...or preserve it! Preserve locally grown fruits and veggies by making gifts of pickles & chutney, jams & jellies, sauces, and salsa.
- Dehydrate it! Dried fruits such as bananas and starfruit, and veggies like kale, make tasty and healthy holiday treats.
- Give the gift of a frozen home-cooked meal that can be reheated on a busy night.



Hand-Me-Down Treasures:

- Hand down meaningful treasures to loved ones with a hand-written story about the items.
- Give away a favorite used book, pairing it with a homemade or locally crafted bookmark.

Shop Local:

- Give gift certificates good for no-waste services from local businesses (hair cut, massage, oil change, 'ukulele lessons, memberships to museums or aquariums, etc.).
- Put together a fresh produce gift basket from your local farmers' market.
- Shop craft fairs, where you can support local artists.
- Give gift certificates from locally-owned restaurants.
- Find handmade items from local sellers at etsy.com. Use the search box to look for your desired item, then filter results using the “Shop Location” option at the lower left side of the screen.



Celebrate 'Ohana:

- Explore genealogy and preserve family history by recording interviews with older relatives. Create gifts (books, CD's, collages) that include photos, stories, and sounds of the past.
- Create a family calendar for the coming year with important dates and photos.
- Create quilts and bags using outgrown clothes with sentimental value.



Gifts That Grow:

- Make garden markers using recycled materials and seed packets to match!
- Give a collection of herb seedlings or re-pot cuttings from your garden. Decorate old food containers to create pots for your plants.
- Plant a native tree in your recipient's honor.



More Resources:

New American Dream Alternative Gift Fair • 12 Days to a Green Holiday
EPA: Think Green Before You Shop • So Kind Alternative Registry New American Dream

Visit www.kokuahawaiiifoundation.org/holidays for more ideas and
Volume 1 of our Green Holiday Educator Guide.



Mahalo to **The New American Dream** for inspiring us to bring **Simplify the Holidays** to Hawai'i. www.newdream.org

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation • P.O. Box 866, Hale'iwa, HI 96712 • www.kokuahawaiiifoundation.org