March / April, 2013

In March we learned about the Wauke plant and experienced the process of making Kapa!

Mahalo ‘Anakala Ben for coming to share with us!

The Breadfruit Institute of the National Tropical Botanical Garden recently launched the "Plant a Tree of Life - Grow 'Ulu" project to distribute breadfruit trees in Hawai‘i. Chantal Chung - Ma‘ona Farms will be distributing 10 Ma‘afala breadfruit trees to Hua o Ke Ao families to plant in their yards and or community. Ma‘afala is a popular variety of ‘ulu originally from Samoa and Tonga it is easy to grow and keeps a compact shape. It produces large, delicious and nutritious ‘Ulu! The first 10 families to fill out the attached application will receive an ‘ulu tree. Distribution day Wednesday, May 15 from 2 – 5 pm @ Hua o Ke Ao.
Mahalo to Susan Cox from the County of Hawaii, Department of Environmental Management, Recycling Specialist. She gave a great composting workshop last week where all participants received a free compost bin. Our keiki knew a lot about composting. Enjoy your new compost bins. Mahalo for taking on the kuleana to reduce the amount of ‘opala we create and keeping it out of our landfills!

On April 17th Keiki assisted in observing, tagging and potting 19 different varieties of kalo huli for our nursery and replanting in the near future. We have also been busy mulching, weeding and covering our first kalo kihapai so that we can replant more kalo.

The following week everyone was able to ku‘i kalo and make their own pa‘i ‘ai and poke to take home and share w/ their ‘ohana. Mahalo nui to Terry and Hala Medeiros for donating a big ahi for our fresh poke! Keiki enjoyed choosing ingredients to create their own poke bowls!

Your keiki have been collecting lots of photos and video clips that will be used to create a presentation for the Ku ‘Āina Pa cohort of garden teachers that I am a part of this year. The title of the presentation is:

He ali‘i ka ‘āina; he kauwā ke kanaka. The land is a chief; man is its servant.
An inquiry on how experiences and interactions with ‘āina in indigenous landscapes shapes our keiki.

Mahalo in advance for taking a few minutes to answer the parent questions attached in this e-mail. Your thoughts and observations are crucial to showing a powerful impact of Hua o Ke Ao for your keiki. I will make the presentation available to everyone once completed! If anyone has pictures to share they are appreciated.

Wednesday, May 22 will be the last Hua o Ke Ao for the 2012 – 2013 school year. You will be notified when we start up again! I hope everyone enjoys a safe and healthy summer break!

Mahalo for your continued support of Hua o Ke Ao!!