

For Immediate Release

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School garden events focus on professional development

KAMUELA, Hawai‘i—April 10, 2014—Online registration is now available for a weeklong series of educational events for school garden educators, teachers, and others passionate about improving student wellness, cognitive development, and engaging deeper learning.

Taking place June 7–12 in Waimea on Hawai‘i Island, the four professional development events focus on the effectiveness of school gardens as an instructional strategy for both nutritional education and hands-on learning in core subject areas.

The events include:

- The Seventh Annual School Learning Garden Symposium: “Awakening the Senses for Deeper Learning”
- ‘AINA In Schools Garden & Nutrition Curriculum Training
- Ku ‘Aina Pa Summer Intensive: “Growing the Connections: Common Core and STEM in the School Garden”
- Waimea School Garden Tours with Dr. Ming Wei Koh

Details and registration information for all events are posted at <http://schoolgardens14.eventbrite.com>.

The school learning garden symposium is presented by the [Hawai‘i Island School Garden Network](#) and will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on June 7 at the Hawai‘i Preparatory Academy GPAC Auditorium (Upper Campus). The full day of educational workshops, presentations, and speakers will guide educators to integrate essential educational curriculum into school learning garden settings. Keynote speaker [Dr. Carla Hannaford](#), an award-winning author, biologist, and educator, will offer insights into the importance of engaging more than just students' minds but their hands and hearts as well. A panel of Hawai‘i health and education leaders will address student wellness and connections with deeper learning. Register by May 15 and save \$10. A limited number of scholarships are available to Hawai‘i Island educators to cover registration, and [Kokua Hawai‘i Foundation](#) is offering scholarships for outer-island registrants to help cover transportation-related expenses.

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The ‘AINA In Schools Garden & Nutrition Curriculum Training will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on June 8 at the Hawai‘i Preparatory Academy Student Union (Upper Campus). Presented by Kokua Hawai‘i Foundation, this special training for educators planning to use ‘AINA In Schools lessons with their students will cover the program’s standards-based garden and nutrition education units. The workshop will also include a brief overview of the program’s composting curriculum and a review of Kokua Hawai‘i Foundation’s helpful resources for educators. Learn more about the ‘AINA In Schools program at www.kokuahawaiiifoundation.org/aina.

The Ku ‘Aina Pa Summer Intensive will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on June 9–11 at [Mala‘ai: The Culinary Garden of Waimea Middle School](#). This three-day workshop for K-8 classroom teachers will deepen their basic garden skills and curriculum development with presentations, hands-on work in the Mala‘ai Culinary Garden, and learning to use Lifelab’s “The Growing Classroom” and database. Common Core standards are connected to every lesson. Afternoons include teamwork by grade level, connecting STEM projects to the morning’s lessons and themes.

Dr. Ming Wei Koh leads a tour of school learning gardens in Waimea including Kanu O Ka ‘Aina, Waimea Country School, and Hawai‘i Preparatory Academy–Ulumau from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on June 12.

These events are sponsored by [The Kohala Center](#), [Kokua Hawai‘i Foundation](#), [Hawai‘i Preparatory Academy](#), and [Mala‘ai: The Culinary Garden of Waimea Middle School](#).