

The Proposal

We have been tasked with the mission of finding one way that we can improve or alter the sustainability upon this school's campus. As a group, we have come up with, discussed, and pondered various different challenges dealing with sustainability that we see on campus on a day to day basis. Coming up with the ideas was challenging, but even more challenging was narrowing down our options to one specific topic that we would base our project around. As a group, our first task was to develop an idea. It was strange for us at first because we had become accustomed to the groups that we had worked with throughout the first 3 quarters of the school year. But as we came together and came up with various different sustainability issues that we see all over campus, it also strengthened us, and our ability to share ideas with one another. When we shared out as an entire class period we saw that there were many trends and that many people recognized the same ideas as us. Wanting our project to be unique and different from all the other ones, we crossed off ideas such as waste at 'Akahi Dining Hall and recycling around campus. After careful consideration of all the ideas, we came down to a final two.

The first would be a project addressing water sustainability on campus. The thing that sparked our interest on this particular topics was that we noticed that the sprinklers that are used to water and maintain Kōnia field would go off during the school day, often times between the hours of 11:00 am and 1:00 pm, when the sun is at its peak. By doing this, not only is the grass not effectively watered, but the water also evaporates before it even touches the ground. We also noticed that often times, the water from the sprinklers would end up on the pavement more than the grass that was actually meant to be watered.

The second stemmed from the book project we began earlier this semester. Like many other things, it's almost impossible to reverse what has already happened or to change the past. Yet, there is hope in preparing younger generations and giving them guiding direction towards the path that we want the future generations to follow. There are many ways that you can present ideas of sustainability towards kids, and exploring these ways would also help guide the way that practices of sustainability are taught from here on out.

Ultimately, we combined two of our original ideas into one that we feel would benefit many. Our project is going down to the elementary campus and teaching kids about ways to be sustainable, but more specifically how to be sustainable through their use of water.

Water is something that everyone uses everyday throughout their entire day. When you wake up in the morning, you brush your teeth or use the bathroom - both of these activities require the use of water. As you progress throughout your day, you carry around a water bottle and drink water. You go to the bathroom again throughout the day and (hopefully) wash your hands. All of these every day activities that we don't even see as those that use a lot of water, actually do.

Often times, adults don't talk about problems with children or even teenagers because they don't think that they can "do anything." As a result of this, children are never encouraged to advocate for themselves or propose different solutions than the ones that adults come up with. We believe that this is a major problem not only on campus, but in general in today's society. The first step to solving problems is believing that you can solve the,

The goal of our project is to build an interactive presentation and activities in order to engage elementary students in learning all about water. First, we will teach them about the water

cycle and where water comes from and goes. This part of the project is integral because having background information to build a solid base off is crucial when attempting to teach practices such as these. Next, we will talk about where a lot of water is wasted. Not just on campus, but also around their homes. Making them aware of the situation is the first step. It is important for them to recognize the problem and be able to explain why it's a problem. The third part of our presentation will be share ways that we have come up with to help them to conserve water. The last portion of the project will be to ask groups to come up with one way other than the ways we have thought of to help solve the problem of water waste. This part of the project will help to bring it full circle and encompass them making a change both through us and through themselves.

In addition to

While our solution seems simple and can be recreated by many, it is different because the knowledge is being passed on from student to student rather than by a teacher to a student. We believe that a student to student approach is more effective because it makes it more relatable. Often times when teachers are presenting information to the class, the class tunes out and does not listen to what the teacher is saying. In addition to this, students are able to more effectively remember how they felt when they were that age and are therefore able to think of a way to reach that age level and effectively communicate with the select group of people.

We chose this particular solution to the problem because we wanted to get the younger generation involved. While adults now could create solutions that could solve the problems, it would be up to our generation to keep them going and to improve them as technology advances.

By beginning to get the next generation involved now, we prepare them for their future and challenge their minds to think outside of the box.

We do not yet have a projected timeline of how long this project will take. The part that will take the longest will be to create the presentation and the various teaching tools that we will need when we go down to present to the class(es). One upside of our project is that there is no monetary cost. We have our laptops which is all we need to make a successful presentation that we will be able to present to the classes. The only place where there could be possible cost would be if we were to bring chart paper and markers for the fourth part of the presentation where they are asked to brainstorm and come up with their own solutions.

The guiding sustainability concept of our project comes from the EfS Enduring Understanding worksheet that we received at the beginning of the school year. “It all begins with a change in thinking,” like we mentioned earlier in this proposal. Adults have the tendency to look for the most logical way of solving problems. On the contrary, children often think with no bound or limitations which leads to more inventive solutions. “We are all responsible,” to us this doesn’t only mean that we ourselves need to begin to take the initiative, it also means that we have a duty to make the younger generations aware of their responsibility both to the Earth and to their community.

From the “Knowledge & Action” worksheet, we pulled the idea of “inventing and affecting the future.” It is vital for us to begin to imagine and create the change now. By going down and working with the children to create new ideas, we ourselves are helping to invent the future. We are giving them a guiding motive and setting them on a path. While they may come up with their own solutions, we have still planted the idea in their heads.

In summary, our project is targeted at the next generation with the hopes of educating them in water sustainability.

What Needs To Be Done:

- Contact elementary teachers (Kalawaia will do)
- Decide on what we want to do / focus our presentation on
- Create fun ways to engage the kids yet still have them learn about sustainability
- How are we going to collect data??
- Assessment

Ideas For Presentation With Children:

- Make it about sustainability in general
 - Maybe even about Hawaiian practices about water preservation in lo'i kalo
- Fun activity in doors by making things with recycled materials
- Work in the lo'i / put in trackers and collect data to share with the kids

<https://www.teachstarter.com/blog/15-sustainability-activities-and-ideas-for-the-classroom/>

Detailed Design

Materials-