

“Kapu Ka Haloa, Ulu Hāhāloa”
Study of Hawaiian Kalo in wet and dry land conditions at O Hina I
Ka Malama Hawaiian Language Immersion at Molokai High
School

This is the final Report for Hawaii Science Teachers Association Chevron Grant for school year 2014-2015. Author Gandharva Mahina Hou Ross. July 29, 2015.

Mahalo nui loa iā ‘oukou a pau nā po’e i ho’okumu i keia kala na makou i mea a kako’o mai i ka makou papahana.

It is with great thanks and gratitude that I write this final report. We are very appreciative of this money to support our program. All of the grant activities were completed by the project deadline. The project got off to a slow start but we finished with a bang. No project activities were done in the first semester, as I was on a semester long sabbatical sailing with Hokulea from Samoa to Tonga and then to Aotearoa. What an amazing experience. My substitute for the semester did not do any of the grant activities so I needed to pick up the pace when I returned in January.

When I returned in January we made up for lost time. I worked with agent Alton Arakaki of UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to acquire the huli, planting slips of 60+ Hawaiian varieties of kalo for our school. We planted ½ of these huli on campus and the other ½ in Halawa Valley. Groups of students adopted a group of huli and did weekly measurements of the growth of kalo on campus. Measurements were made of the length and width of the largest and smallest leaves on each plant. The number of leaves and baby kalo were also counted as well as the height of the kalo measured. These measurements lasted for 4 months until the last weeks of school when we harvested the leaves to make laulau for the students to eat. Student measurements were graphed to show growth over time. For the wetland varieties in Halawa valley, we did 4 different readings once per month. We were able to use the grant money to pay Dudoits bus service for 4 field trips to Halawa valley to do loi maintenance and measure the growth of the kalo. On our last trip to Halawa we hosted 35 3rd and 4th grade students from Puohala Elementary and harvested the kalo for the poi for our graduation celebration. The project was a success. Mahalo again for the great

