

Stacy George
Ewa Elementary School

Final Evaluation – “A Sustainable Edible Learning Garden” Chevron HaSTA grant SY 2014-2015

The school year began with an introduction to aquaponics and the relationship between an aquaponics system and the ecosystem within our own environment. Each of the aquaponic systems purchased with the grant money allowed all of the fifth grade classrooms an opportunity to learn about sustainability.



Through this grant, students learned the importance of caring for the ā'ina and the importance in creating an environment that provides a sustainable future for us and other living things.

Students were able to connect science, and technology lessons and see potential for in these content

Throughout the year students constructed, grew, maintained, harvested and enjoyed an edible garden.



able to math to the the careers areas.

learning

Students conducted research on various plants they wanted to grow and the characteristics of each plant in relationship to each other. They found that each plant had a variety of characteristics – some grew better in warmer climates, some needed more sun or water, some plants also did not get along with other plants so students made sure they did not plant these plants together. When the various pests attacked the

garden, students were able to find organic ways to address this problem.

Parents came in to help install an irrigation system so that the plants would still be hydrated when



school was not in session. Students took ownership in the garden and often visited their garden on a daily basis – they made sure the plants



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were growing efficiently, that bugs were not munching on their plants, and that each plant was adequately taken care of. Students began to recognize a variety of plants and we often would select a day to harvest our crop and enjoy the bountiful supply of veggies and herbs.

the crops and we classroom to create and meals. We made cob, tortilla wraps grew herbs that America and used understand what it



Students would harvest would go back to the delicious healthy snacks ratatouille, corn on the and more. Students also represented Colonial various herbs to was like during the

colonial days. Students were able to use the garden, aquaponics and the idea of sustainability to grow as individuals. They also were motivated to learn and began they



to teach others what learned.

This use a a

grant allowed me to sustainable garden as means to help

students find ways in which to solve problems and rely

on one another. The students were engaged in group work wick often entailed colloboration and real world problem solving.

Thank you so much for providing the students at Ewa Elementary an opportunity to find enjoyment in learning and the value in caring for our land. The students were thrilled about science, technology,

engireering and math.

At the end of the year, a student gave me a poem that shared his joy from the garden. I can see how this project gave

students opportunities to engage in inquiry and motivated them to learn. Many of the students gained so much through this grant. We did not just learn about science - we learned about working together and building a relationship with one another. We learned about hard work, perseverance and determination. We learned about caring for

our land and how even just the littlest changes can make a difference. Thank you so much for providing our 5th graders with this opportunity.

