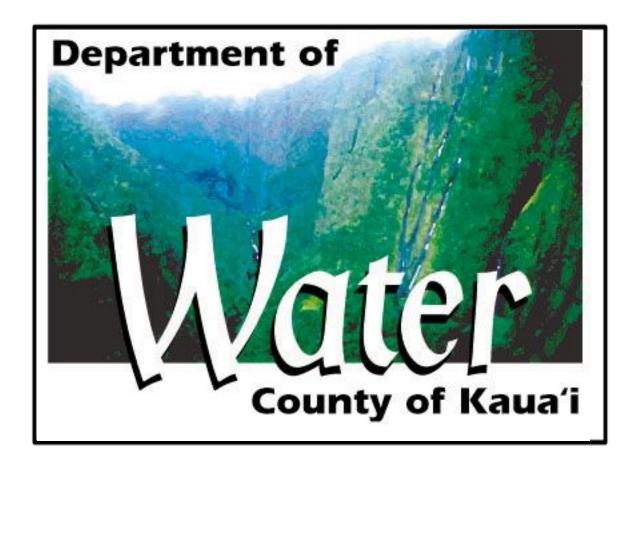








Kauai's Department of Water's 16th Annual "Make a Splash" Festival



Background:

The Kaua`i Department of Water coordinated and hosted the State's largest and only, Make a Splash with Project WET Water Festival to promote water education, sustainability, water resources and conservation. The event welcomes all 5th grade students on Kauai from public, private, immersion charter schools and home school programs. The event provides a unique water education experience with 12 stations that host hands-on, interactive activities and live discussions.

Approximately 850-900 attend the event each year. Efforts were made to minimize impact on the environment, promote recycling and demonstrate Department and community responsibility towards sustainability. The event was held on September 19, 2019 at the Vidinha Stadium Soccer field in Lihue, Kaua`i.

Event Highlights:

- All participating teachers, students, staff and volunteers were encouraged to:
 - o Bring their own reusable water bottle, hydro refill stations provided.
 - Utilize email communication; including registrations, inquiries, event questions and submitting waiver forms.
 - Bring and use their own school or staff ID's at the event. Repeat community volunteers were also able to re-use their name tags from the previous year. Name tag holders (if used) were collected at the end of the event, so they could be reused.
 - Car pool and/or use the bus transportation provided to and from the event location.
 - Reduce waste at the event.



Students show off their reusable water bottles, as they stand in line to refill them at one of the water stations.

Green Efforts:

- Specially marked sorting (recycle, trash, compostable) stations were made available at the event.
- Announcements were made prior to and during the event to reinstate our green efforts and point out recycling/compostable bins at the event.
- Approximately 98% of activity supplies are re-used! We clean, wash/dry, wipe down supplies and store supplies for next year. The non-reusable supplies are items that students take home with them as a souvenir.
- Switched from paper towels to microfiber towels at water stations were needed.
- Cardboard boxes used to transport supplies are stored and reused each year.
- Food service items; such as: beverage cups, plates, utensils, etc. were made of compostable materials.
- Lunches were served in cardboard box lunches. Lunch order was made based on event registration sign-ins the day of the event in order to avoid excess food order. Vegetarian options were available.
- To minimize transportation use for the event, morning refreshments and lunch boxes were purchased from local businesses located less than 6 minutes away from the event.
- No electricity used during the event.
- Whenever possible, we selected an eco-friendly and/or item made of recycled materials for student swag items, if applicable. This included: pencils, bags, notebooks, lanyards, etc.
- Post event surveys were printed on 30% post-consumer recycled content and were reused from old binder pages. Surveys were printed two-sided to minimize paper use.



Outdoor classrooms= no electricity

Our awesome JROTC student leader volunteers!

A few of the recycled supplies, stored in 28 storage containers!

















