



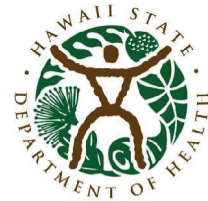
HAWAII
GREEN

2023

**BUSINESS
PROGRAM**



HAWAII
STATE
ENERGY
OFFICE



Make a Splash



Department of

Water

County of Kaua'i

Background:

The Make a Splash with Project WET Festival is Hawai'i's largest and only water education festival! In its 18th year of hosting the event, the Kaua'i Department of Water offers an interactive and engaging opportunity to educate students and teachers about water, discuss and formulate ideas for local water issues to strengthen its community awareness for water. The Make a Splash festival brings together Department of Water employees, local and state agencies and water enthusiasts alike to Kaua'i to support this award-winning water education event.

Highlights:

- The Make a Splash Festival hosts more than 900 participants and volunteers (not including set-up day) and includes 11 activities stations that include a wide variety of supplies for each activity. To encourage reusable water bottle use, we offered a souvenir event hat to volunteers who brought in their own water bottle. Of the 189 volunteers that signed up at the event, 126 received hats. We made note that an estimated eight volunteers declined a hat because they brought their own.
- All paper goods offered at the event; plates, napkins, utensils, were made of compostable material. A buffet style lunch was served for set-up day with minimal food waste. The three lunch plate servings were that remained after lunch service were shared with nearby security services staff.
- All Department of Water issued activities from the Project WET curriculum were adapted to include reusable activity supplies. The event coordinator cleans out, washes and dries out supplies for reuse each year. This is impressive because of the amount of supplies used fills 16 storage containers for the 11 activity stations offered.
- There was one paper hand-out used for post-event volunteer surveys. The survey was printed on repurposed paper that was once used in a 1992 report as a tab divider. The survey was downsized to a half page to save paper and it was carefully printed to avoid printing where the hole punch was made. (see photo)
- Since activities offered reusable supplies, we saw a decrease in trash collected from the festival. Previous year's trash combined was two 33 gal. trash bags. This year, they filled about one and a half 33 gal. trash bags. Important to note that contents also included trash from visiting students who ate their lunches at the festival.
- No plastic water bottles were offered. Instead, the Kaua'i Department of Water provided water refill stations around the festival to encourage use of reusable water bottles.
- Event instructions encouraged carpooling to the event and Department of Water hired and received in-kind donations for bus transportation for all attending schools and student volunteers. The event location, Vidinha Stadium in Lihue a short walk from the airport. A few volunteers arriving from neighbor islands opted to walk from the airport to the event.

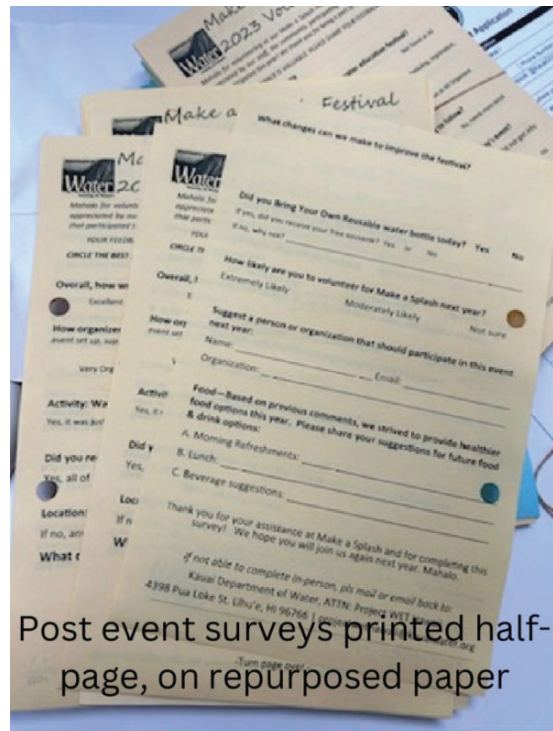


Refilling their reusable water bottles.

Water refill station, no plastic!



Bins of reusable supplies



Post event surveys printed half-page, on repurposed paper