Through classroom recycling and schoolwide collection, this hands-on program empowers students to engage and educate their school community about the 3Rs: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

How It Works: The 3Rs School Program works with student leadership groups and their advisors in K-12 schools on O‘ahu to bring waste awareness and action to school campuses:

- Trained student leaders engage their school community in implementing a classroom, grade level, or schoolwide recycling system by conducting classroom presentations, creating program materials, and serving as mentors on campus;

- Student leaders oversee the collection and deposit of filled recycling bins from the campus and each classroom into the school’s recycling receptacle.

3Rs School Program Resources:
Kōkua Hawai‘i Foundation provides recycling bins, bin signage, and additional program components and resources to customize the 3Rs School Recycling Program to the needs of each school community:

3Rs Orientation Materials: Kōkua Hawai‘i Foundation provides student leaders with 3Rs orientation materials (presentations, signage, guides) covering the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling, implementation of a schoolwide recycling collection system, and tips on how to be recycling advocates on campus.

3Rs School Recycling Drives: Schools fundraise and clean up campuses by hosting 3Rs School Recycling Drives. Our team of recycling partners collects items such as HI-5 cans & bottles, computers & electronics, scrap metals, used cooking oil, clothing, household goods and more.

Waste Stream Audits: Our toolkit helps students conduct classroom, cafeteria or schoolwide waste audits that incorporate science and math with real world problem-based learning. Students follow a waste audit plan to examine the amount of waste generated and then determine ways to reduce, reuse and recycle it.

Waste Reduction Campaigns: Students and school clubs can receive guidance from Kōkua Hawai‘i foundation for creating a student project or campaign related to 3Rs and campus waste reduction. This could be a project to measure and eliminate a type of plastic or other waste on campus, design a food waste collection system, or petition leaders to support a campus waste reduction plan or project. Don’t know where to start? How about entering the Plastic Free Hawai‘i School Mural Contest?!

Outreach Events: School groups plan outreach activities that support 3Rs campus goals including film screenings, beach clean-ups, recycled art exhibits, greening school events, and more.

For more information on the 3Rs School Program, including program registration materials, email 3Rs@kokuahawaiifoundation.org or visit kokuahawaiifoundation.org/3Rs

The 3Rs School Program is a program of Kōkua Hawai‘i Foundation