GARDEN-BASED LEARNING

The ʻĀINA In Schools Garden-Based Learning component reconnects students to the natural world through the joys of gardening. There are eight ʻĀINA In Schools garden lessons each for grades K, 1, 4, and 5. Teachers and volunteers lead the garden lessons and oversee garden clubs.

Grade Level Focus: Grades K, 1, 4, and 5 participate in ʻĀINA In Schools Garden Lessons. Lessons incorporate academic standards and can be easily adapted for use in other grades. Garden clubs are open to students from all grade levels.

Educational Offerings

• KHF staff train teachers and volunteer docents to deliver garden lessons at Participating ʻĀINA Schools and provide funding for food samples and lesson supply kits.
• Kindergarten lessons focus on life cycles and habitats in the Butterfly Garden and plant parts in The Tops & Bottoms Garden.
• 1st Grade lessons include measuring fast growing plants in the Sunflower House and Bean Trellis Gardens and observing how companion plants and garden creatures work together in The Good Buddy Garden.
• 4th Grade lessons take students back to their roots by growing traditional Hawaiian foods including kalo, ʻuala, ʻulu, ki, and native Hawaiian plants.
• 5th Grade lessons have students practice Native American traditions in the Three Sisters Garden and conduct experiments in the Scientific Garden.
• Schools are encouraged to offer weekly garden clubs where students from all grade levels tend the gardens at lunch, recess or after school. Families and community members contribute to preparing and maintaining the garden beds at garden parties, held three times a year at each school.

Getting Involved & Learning More

• KHF offers ʻĀINA In Schools Garden Curricula Trainings for Educators twice per year on multiple islands. Oʻahu course participants are eligible for PDE3 credits.
• Lessons and resources are available for download on the Kōkua Hawaiʻi Foundation website by registered users.
• Any Hawaiʻi school may apply for a Kōkua Hawaiʻi Foundation Project Grant to fund supplies for school gardens.
• To support ʻĀINA In Schools, contact aina@kokuahawaiifoundation.org.
• Subscribe to KHF and ʻĀINA In Schools e-newsletters for the latest information.