

Philip Adam Tansey

Eagle Service Project

May, 2004

For my Eagle Service Project I decided to promote recycling in Mililani. To accomplish this task, I set up a booth at the Taste of Mililani. The Taste of Mililani was located at Mililani District Park on the first of May.

The reason why I chose this project was because I was discouraged by the Hawaii State recycling standards. I figured that this project would be a great way to educate the citizens of Mililani and Oahu that recycling is needed for our state. To me it seemed that most citizens knew what to recycle, they just didn't know why and how. Once they realize the need to recycle to protect our islands, I believe they will take a few extra steps to recycle items instead of throwing them away.

For my project I proposed:

- Set up a booth at The Taste of Mililani to promote recycling.
- Set up a free educational game about recycling to attract youth to the booth.

The game involved choosing three recyclable items from a group, then using a miniature catapult to launch a ping-pong ball into a recycle bin. The number of shots was equivalent to the number of correct items chosen.

- Provided informational posters and pamphlets about recycling that visitors to my booth could read. The posters covered why, where, how, and what you should recycle.

- Asked random citizens to fill out a short survey about their family's recycling habits
- Placed recycle bins around the park where The Taste of Mililani occurred for the day of the project and took the items to be recycled to reduce trash at the event.

How I accomplished my project:

- Coordinated with Mililani Town Association for the booth for the project.
- Coordinated with City and County Recycling Division for information and display materials.
- Coordinate with volunteers to schedule adequate coverage of all shifts during to project.
- Educated all volunteers about recycling so they would be able to answer questions people might ask them while assisting me with my project. This involved two Boy Scout meetings and one Cub Scout meeting.

I showed leadership in this project by coordinating with the City and County of Honolulu and Mililani Town Association. I first had to go to Pat Nix at MTA and ask if she would allow me to have a booth that would promote recycling. Ms. Nix then asked me to contact City and County of Honolulu Recycle Division, Suzanne Jones. Once approved by Ms. Nix and Ms. Jones, I presented my idea to my Boy Scout Troop committee for approval. With their approval, I then submitted my project to Aloha Council, Ka'ala District Eagle Chairman and with a little tweaking I had my eagle project fully approved on February 24, 2004.

I have to give a lot of thanks to Suzanne Jones and Eileen Helmstetter at City and County Recycling Division for helping me to get my project ready for the Taste of Mililani. They provided me with the pencils and magnets to hand out as souvenirs to people who played my game. They also provided me with a short video about H-Power that got my volunteers thinking which helped them cooperate more while being trained. For the Taste of Mililani, City and County supplied me with a Recycling music CD and a map of Mililani's with the curbside recycling schedule on it. These items were great for attracting visitors.

With the help of City and County representatives, Ms. Jones, and Ms. Helmstetter, I borrowed one of the new bench and recycling units that are to be placed around the state. I placed the recycle unit in front of my booth and used it as my main tool to catch people's attention. I would state facts about the unit to visitors, "Did you know that the bench you are now sitting on was made from 966 recycled milk jugs." I mostly caught the older citizens with the bench because a lot of them wanted to sit down, but I also caught Mayor hopefuls Mufi Hannemann and Duke Bainum. I hope that they will make recycling one of their objectives and include it in their campaign.

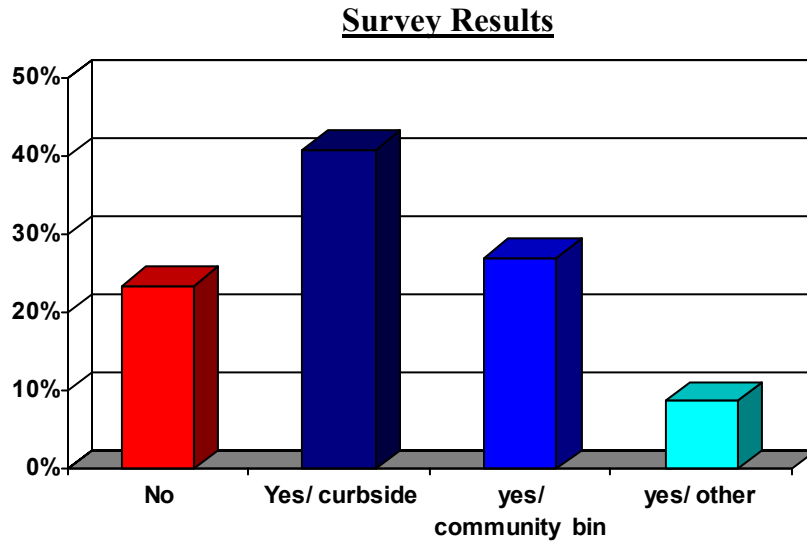
Besides coordinating with MTA and City and County, I had to coordinate with my volunteers, and schedule with my Troop and the Cub Pack for when they were available to be trained, assist me with preparing materials for my booth, and to work a shift at my project. I first gave a presentation to my Troop and Pack 144 Webelos about my project. Then I created and posted a sign-up sheet for anyone interested to help with my project. Once I followed up with personal phone calls I had all my volunteers, I trained them to be able to answer questions anyone might ask them. We

then got my posters, survey, bins, and game ready for the Taste of Mililani. At the Taste of Mililani, on May First, 21 volunteers assisted me in my Eagle Project. I orchestrated three, three hour shifts for the Boy Scouts and a one hour shift for the Webelos. We clocked a total of 77 volunteer hours and a combined total (organizing for project, training of volunteers, preparation of materials before project, and project) of 154 hours for my Eagle Project.

During the project, I alternated my volunteers between jobs so they wouldn't become bored, along with coordinating when each volunteer could take a break while leaving enough people to help me. Unfortunately, as a leader I had the responsibility to send a scout home because of continued unwillingness to assist in the project and destruction of display materials. This was a very hard decision to make and was probably the only real problem I faced that day. At another point during the project I noticed that the Webelos were getting a little rowdy. My first thought was to scold them and tell them to get back to work, but I had already faced this problem. So instead of yelling, I took them out for a break. We ended up playing tag for about ten minutes to settle them down. I believe that the course I took was the correct one.

Throughout the day, I surveyed 200 families. The survey asked three questions: (1). Do they recycle, (2). Where do they recycle, (3). What do they recycle. I tallied up the results and found that 76.5% of my sample group recycled and 23.5% did not. Half of the families that recycle use the curbside recycling in Mililani and a third of the other people go to a private recycling company or community bin. Most of the people that took the survey live in Mililani where the recycling pilot project took

place, but if you were to go to another community I don't think the recycling percentage would have been so high.



If I was to sum up the whole project I would say it was a success. I completed everything I planned to. I believe having the booth at Taste of Mililani was a good way to increase recycling awareness. I hope the parks will use the recycle units which would encourage separation of recyclable from trash. When given the option, many people took the time to put the recyclables items in my recycle bins.

Unfortunately, many people just threw their drink bottles in the nearest trash can.

At the end of Taste of Mililani, we collected one 64 gallon bin full of plastic and a second full of aluminum. That was about six fewer bags of trash that didn't go to H-Power. My project showed me that many people do recycle if it is made easier to them, like my bins at the park or the Mililani Pilot Curbside Project. The only problem is we can not stop here. We need to continue to educate by promoting

recycling at schools and community functions to educate citizens of Hawaii in the need to recycle here to protect our islands for the future.