

# HAWAII NATURE CENTER

The Hawaii Nature Center  
Hawaii Nature Center  
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The Hawaii Nature Center was established more than 25 years ago by members of the Oahu community who thought their children were not receiving adequate outdoor education. Since that time the association has morphed into an environmental education organization that is revered by teachers, families, and visitors because of the quality outdoor programs that encourage children to become konohiki – wise stewards of their island resources.

HNC offers environmental education programs to Elementary School Students, Intersession camp programs to 6-13 year olds, community programs and hikes for families and adults, as well as an interactive museum on Maui. We serve the Oahu, Maui, and Kauai communities with the mission to *"foster awareness, appreciation and understanding of the environment by and for the people of Hawai'i, and to encourage wise stewardship of the islands."*

To encourage children to become wise stewards, HNC explains why it is important to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Our highly trained Environmental Educators and Docents include these terms in every program we teach. The Center is now prepared to take this a step further and assist teachers and students with setting up a recycling program at their schools. Enclosed you will find an overview of our first grade program which includes giving students the motivation and skill set to start their own school recycling or compost project.

The cost of the program is \$1000. As a Recycling Teaching Partner, we can offer the program to school groups of 60 for \$500 (with \$500 paid by the RTP program) or less, depending on funding from other sources.

Hawai'i Nature Center  
GRADE 1: Program Lessons and Activities  
***An Introduction to Plants, Animals, and Healthy Habitats***

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

**Key concepts:**

There are many different types of plants and animals in nature. Plants and animals are important to people. All plants and animals, including humans need a healthy habitat. Everyone can help care for plants and animals and the island home we share. By recycling and composting we can help keep our habitat healthy.

**Goals:**

- 1) To foster awareness and appreciation of nature, with an emphasis on food chains and habitats.
- 2) To expose students to the plants and animals found in lowland Hawaiian forest and stream environments.
- 3) To promote enthusiasm for taking action in helping to keep our island habitat clean.
- 4) To assist students and teachers in setting up a recycling project in their classrooms or on their school campus.

**Objectives:**

- 1) Students will be able to describe the essential elements of a healthy habitat and demonstrate a simple food chain.
- 2) Students will be able to express why nature is important to them and why we need to help keep our habitat clean.
- 3) With the appreciation, knowledge, and awareness of nature gained from HNC's hands-on outdoor activities, students will have the motivation and skills needed to take action and start a recycling project at school.

**PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

9:00-9:30	Introduction to Plants, Animals, and Healthy Habitats Bathroom Break
9:30-10:45	Field Activities: <i>Stream Safari</i> 1 <sup>st</sup> Rotation
10:05-10:40	Field Activities: <i>Habitat Hike</i> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rotation
10:40-11:15	Field Activities: <i>Food Chain Challenge</i> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rotation
11:15-11:45	Lunch
11:45-12:05	After Lunch Composting Activity: "Taking Action" 1 <sup>st</sup> rotation
12:05-12:25	After Lunch Recycling Activity: "Taking Action" 2 <sup>nd</sup> rotation
12:25-12:45	Summary

After the students enjoy a lesson on 'why' it is important to keep their habitat clean and healthy, they will learn 'how' they can make a positive difference on their habitat. The following are the lessons that focus on the 'how'.

## ***"How can we help take care of nature?"***

### ***ROTATION 1 – Composting***

**Key Concepts:** Instead of taking up more space in the landfill, students will learn how vegetarian food scraps and other organic matter can be recycled back into the earth. Composting is easy to do and lots of fun!

**Objective:** Students and teachers will learn the 'compost recipe' and be able to create their own compost pile at school.

**Activity:** Students will add their lunch leftovers to the Nature Center's compost pile. They will also add decomposing plant materials to the pile, help aerate the compost, and dig through the pile to discover the little compost critters that help to recycle nutrients.

### ***ROTATION 2 – Recycling***

**Key Concepts:** Where does our rubbish go? Using the student's lunch materials as examples, HNC staff will explain where most of our trash ends up: the landfill. Much of human-made trash can be recycled. Everyone can help take care of our island habitat by reducing, reusing, and recycling!

**Objective:** Students will be able to identify which part of their lunches can be recycled. Students and teachers will learn how easy it is to set up their own recycling bins at school. Students will also be able to give examples of things that can be reused and reduced.

**Activity:** Students will sort through their own lunch containers and figure out which items can be recycled. They will crush their aluminum cans and plastic bottles and add them to our recycle bin (or their own bins.) HNC staff will assist the class in starting their own recycling project.

### **CONCLUSION**

**Key concepts:** Plants and animal habitats are found all over, even in our playgrounds and neighborhoods. There are many things First Graders can do to take care of plants and animals and their homes (our home!).

**Objective:** Students will be able to explain why we should reduce, reuse, and recycle. They will understand where our trash goes and be able to explain what they can do to lessen the amount that goes into our landfills.

**Activity:** Gathered together at the end of a fun-filled day exploring nature, students and teachers will work with HNC staff in planning their own recycling project for their classroom or school campus (i.e. composting and/or recycling.)

City and County recycling materials for schools will be passed out to each class.