

Aloha Tamara and Recycle Staff,

I was extremely impressed and thankful for your event bin collection program and your donation of recycled items. This past semester I was a student teacher, at Hoku'lani Elementary, placed in a first grade classroom and I set up a unit about recycling. The unit was kicked off on Earth Day, with the students working on a creative thinking lesson in which students learned about our landfills and how fast they are filling up with trash. The students were given a large amount of trash and had to fit it in a small cardboard box (the landfill). After trying and failing, the students got together in groups and worked as 'sanitation engineers' to brainstorm ideas to fix their problem. I was going to submit one or two of the groups' possible solution papers, but they were all so creative that I have submitted them all (see fax). The students came up with great solutions and in the end were able to fit all the trash into the cardboard box (the landfill).

The rest of Earth Day was spent learning about what happens to our trash and how glass, cans, and paper gets recycled. As a class, the students were excited to recycle and eagerly prepared for a can and bottle drive the following week. All the students made creative posters. The following week we set up the bins from your organization and the students posted the posters around the school. Many of them came early to wave their signs at cars pulling in to drop off students. The students were very passionate and they chanted things like, "save our earth" and "recycle". They came early to school and stayed after to help with the recyclables as well as bringing in items to recycle from home. The students would have loved to continue this all month, and I look forward to becoming a full time teacher and extending this project.

Thank you again for your help, the kids were beyond excited about the pencils, lanyards, book covers, tattoos, and the big blue bin. The reusable bags went as prizes and the CD was played while we made recycled paper beads one afternoon. These students have learned a lot about helping our earth, and they are excited about it. Looks like a bright future ahead! Enjoy the attached photos of the students sign waving, and re-using newspapers as Samurai hats, as well as the mailed samples of student work. Their ideas are so creative! Looking forward to working with you in the future.

Aloha,

Leah Johnson