

RECYCLE WITH EARTHWORMS!



**Recycling Teaching Partner
RTP 2010-2011**



CLASSROOM WORM PROJECT

Recommended for grades 2, 3, 4 and 5, although other grade levels can be accommodated with some adjustments. Your students will be elbow-deep into worms with this exciting hands-on recycling activity.

The project is in two parts: In the first one-hour **Bin Start Session**, your students will create and populate worm bins and learn the principles and practices of vermicomposting. Each classroom starts with one, two, or more 10-gallon worm bins, each bin with a 1/4-pound worm colony. Students will care for their worms for 5-6 months, feeding kitchen or lunchroom food waste and shredded paper waste from the office. They will weigh, measure, describe and document the process in a Food Log.

At the end of the 5-6 month cycle, we return for a two-hour **Harvest Session**. Students learn the harvesting techniques and extract the two products they have produced— more worms and a batch of vermicast. The growing worm colony can be re-bed in additional bins to pass to other classes, moved to bigger systems, or sold for fundraising. Vermicast may be used in school gardens or landscaping, processed for sale, or used to conduct soil science experiments. Maximum 25 students per class.

Cost: Per classroom, \$350 presentation fee covers both sessions.

Materials: \$70 for each bin and worm colony.

TEACHERS' WORM WORKSHOPS and OTHER WORM PROGRAMS

Waikiki Worm Company will work with your school to provide basic vermicomposting instruction to whatever group – teachers, families, school clubs, etc. – in whatever format fits your needs. Fees are based on \$100 per hour plus cost of materials.

RTP funds can also be used to expand existing worm programs for advanced classroom studies and large-scale cafeteria composting.

Vermicomposting is the practice of using worms to aid in the breakdown of organic matter so that valuable plant nutrients can be returned to the soil. Simply put, worms eat our food waste, their castings in turn becomes food for plants, and plants provide us with the food we eat. When we vermicompost, we promote and manage this process. Vermicomposting is recycling.

Students at every grade level thoroughly enjoy this interactive project, and quickly master worm bin management techniques as they observe and document the workings of the decomposer ecosystem.

Not only is vermicomposting good fun and good science, but it solves a very real problem— what to do about food waste. It has viable applications for school waste management and recycling projects, gardening and agriculture, parental and community involvement. A growing worm colony becomes an important and valuable asset to your school and community.



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**Visit our website at
www.waikikiworm.com**