

RECYCLE WITH EARTHWORMS!

GRANT DEADLINE
September 1, 2011

**City & County of Honolulu
Department of Environmental Services
(opala.org)**

**School Recycling Project Grant –
\$500 per school per year**

CLASSROOM WORM PROJECT



Go green this year with worms! Your students can create a sustainable recycling program for their school by experiencing the art, science, and adventure of *vermicomposting*. They will be elbow-deep in ecosystem with this exciting hands-on activity. Composting with worms is not only good recycling but good science and great fun.

Recommended for Grades 3, 4, 5.
Maximum 30 students per class.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Classroom Worm Project is a six-month interactive recycling project that also fulfills science curriculum requirements. Instruction, support, and materials are provided by Waikiki Worm Company. Instruction is in two parts:



In the first 1-1/2 hour **Bin Start Session**, students construct a worm bin environment, meet the worms and learn the basics of the decomposer ecosystem and the principles and practices of vermicomposting. We provide one 10-gallon worm bin set-up and a 1/4-pound starter worm colony. The bin may be placed indoors or out in a shady place.

Students care for their worms for six months, weekly feeding food waste from the lunchroom and shredded paper waste from the office. They weigh, measure, describe and document the process.

At the end of the six-month cycle, we return to conduct a 1-1/2 hour **Harvest Session**. Students practice and perfect the harvesting procedure to extract the two products they have produced— more worms and a batch of nutrient-rich vermicast.

The growing worm colony can be re-bed in additional bins to pass to other classes or moved to a large-scale vermicomposting system. Vermicast may be used in school gardens or landscaping, processed for sale, or used to conduct soil science experiments.

The more worms at work on your school campus, the less waste goes into the waste stream and the more valuable nutrients are recovered and recycled.

PROJECT COST BREAKDOWN

Required expenditures include...

- Presentation fee (two sessions): \$400
- Basic materials: One 10-gallon bin, 1/4 pound worms, two bricks, drip pan and bucket \$40

Optional materials include...

Your choice up to \$60 value to equal \$500 grant limit:

- Rolling cart \$60
- Additional 10-gallon bin set (bin, bricks, drip pan) \$30
- Book selection:
 - *Worms Eat My Garbage* \$15
 - *Worms Eat Our Garbage - Classroom Activities for a Better Environment* - \$25
 - *The Earth Moved - On the Remarkable Achievements of Earthworms* - \$15
 - *PeeWee the Wonder Worm series (5 books)* \$40

SCHEDULE YOUR PROJECT TODAY!

Classroom Worm Project starts for the 2011-2012 school year may be scheduled **only** between September 15 and November 15, 2011.

GRANT INFORMATION & DEADLINE

School Recycling Project Grants support sustainable, long-term recycling projects on school campuses and in the community. **Completed Grant Proposals must be submitted to the City & County by September 1, 2011.** You will be contacted via e-mail after the proposal has been reviewed. Complete the attached Grant Proposal and return to Tamara Farnsworth: fax 768-3434, e-mail tfarnsworth@honolulu.gov.

CALL US

Please get in touch with us for more details and to schedule your Classroom Worm Project. We are happy to help you with planning your grant package and filling out the application form. Contact Mindy Jaffe at Waikiki Worm at 945-9676 or e-mail waikikiworm@hawaii.rr.com.