



NATIONAL TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

Chartered by Congress to Create a National Resource in Conservation, Research, and Education

Kōkua ‘Āina Youth Initiative (KAYI)

NTBG’s Kōkua ‘Āina Youth Initiative is a collaboration with the Hawai‘i Community Foundation’s Youth Matters Network, designed to provide a “green collar” career pathway experience to participating Kaua‘i high school students. A main programmatic aim is to empower local students (ages 14-19) to discover career options within the fields of horticulture/agriculture, conservation, small business, community development/social entrepreneurship, and traditional Hawaiian knowledge. Additionally participants learn how to navigate today’s competitive job market, and the nuances of successful interview preparation.

For School Years 2008-09 and 2009-10

KAYI students are selected from three places on Kaua‘i:

- Hale ‘Opio Therapeutic Group Home
- Kawaikini: New Century Charter School
- Ke Kula Ni‘ihau o Kekaha Learning Center

In addition to the core curriculum, all students are contributing to a collective project building a demonstration/youth nursery in the McBryde Garden. Students select plants to grow, develop maintenance schedules, and care for the plants. These plants will be sold by students who are responsible for the marketing, sales, customer service, and cash handling of the sales events. Profits made from the sale will go to augment their monthly stipend. Students will also take part in cultural demonstrations led by local kupuna and learn about (or share from their own experiences) proper Hawaiian protocol relating to land management.

— June 7, 2009