School Learning Garden
At Cleveland Academy of Leadership
Lessons learned in Hawai‘i
Spenser Cheek, Danni Densford, Savannah Grant, and Julie Pugh
Introduction

- Promote food security and nutrition
- Focusing attention specifically around the students of Cleveland Academy of Leadership
- Emphasis on Education: Cultivate the mentality early on
- Urban Garden
Community Garden in the Northside

- Community members can rent plots
- Run by an Urban Farmer
- Based on education of small and sustainable farming
- More than 500 volunteer hours in 2014
- Encouragement to start backyard gardens

The Spartanburg County Foundation Church St. Community Garden
Cleveland Academy of Leadership

The Leader in Me

1. Be proactive
2. Begin with the end in mind
3. Put first things first
4. Think win-win
5. Seek first to understand, then be understood
6. Synergize
7. Sharpen the saw
**MISSION:** To cultivate the relationship between students and the land through growing and sharing nourishing food in our outdoor living classroom. Our work reaches beyond the boundaries of our garden connecting land stewardship, culture, health, and pleasure with lifelong learning.
Mala’ai Learning Garden

- Founded in 2003
- Waimea Middle School
- Funded from donations and grants
- Hawai’i School Garden Curriculum Map*
- Themes:
  - Sense of Place and Self
  - Interconnection between soil and humans
  - Nourishment
  - Nature’s Design
malaigarden Snacks snacks snacks snacks snacks for summer school! Clockwise from top left corner: bell pepper and cucumber slices with a healthy "ranch" dip, Greek yogurt and fruit cup, sautéed lemon garlic green beans, and caprese sliders with a balsamic vinaigrette 😋 featuring cucumbers, tomatoes and bananas from local growers and green beans and herbs from our very own māla. #malaal #culinarygarden #healthysnacks #healthyschools #healthykids #foodcorps

rockersrevolution 👏👏👏

anastasia.fitness 😊
Feedback from Waimea Students

- Healthy snacks straight from the garden
- Learning about different crops and how to grow them
- Taking care/Malama Aina
- Being able to share what they do with their families
- Taking produce and recipes home to families
- Growing and eating different foods
- No GMO
- Trying new things
- Beauty
- Starting new seeds and watching them grow
- Something different than their regular classes
- Being outside and breathing fresh air
- FUN
- Spending time with friends and teachers in a different environment
- Moving around/doing physical work
- Working together
- Hands on learning by doing, not by being told
- Teacher gets to know students in a different way and work alongside students
- Feeling successful
Mala‘ai Garden Results for the 2015-16 School Year

5,200 hours of student learning

297 classes participated

6,000 fresh & healthy snacks

1,425 volunteer hours

266 students provided with garden experiences

855 pounds of produce harvested
Short Term Plan For The Learning Garden

- Have a Clear Mission and Vision
  - To provide a hands on learning environment for the students at Cleveland Academy with a vision to cultivate the mindset for nutrition, food security, and community involvement at a young age

- Involve People from the Beginning
  - Establish a volunteer base early

- Start Small and Do Well
SHORT TERM GOALS

- Renewable Energy Implementation
- Educational Hub
- Compost from Cleveland Academy of Leadership
- Keeping Butterfly Creek in Mind
Current Curriculum Ideas

- The Eat Smart, Move More Campaign
  - Garden Program – SC Dept. of Agriculture
  - present in Spartanburg County
  - Created by Clemson University students
Curriculum In the Upstate - “Gardenology”

- School garden committee
- Vegetable and/or fruit garden
- Leveraging resources
- Student involvement
- Curriculum integration
- Community involvement
- Use of produce in school/community
- Sustainability
- Monitoring

One teacher in the Upstate says “The community garden store has analyzed the garden soil and sent recommendations. They have also provided some free fertilizers. Several parents have bought and donated garden gloves for the children. A community member bought and donated recycled buckets for the grade levels to store their garden supplies. Parents provided the wood used in our garden markers and also donated all the seeds and some plants.”
malaigarden PE and health class practicing the Garden Form, a series of martial arts moves that tell the story of growing a garden. We then discussed how martial arts and gardening affect our mental, emotional, physical, and social health #Malaai #martialarts #schoolgarden #growagarden #healthyfood #healthykids #health #pe

34_precious_34 I'm in that pic
Long Term Goals of a Learning Garden

- School wide participation
- Growth within the school
- An Inter-school Garden chain through District 7
- Creek for Irrigation
- Future partnerships
Potential Partnerships

- VCOM
- Wofford College or Converse College
  - Bonner scholars or other groups who have an interest in service
- High school/Middle school students in District
- Hub City Community Garden
Challenges of a Learning Garden

- Reusable resources
- Financing
- Safety of soil/land
  - Planter boxes/alternate ways of growing produce
- Teacher participation
- Loyal volunteers
- Year-round care