



Windward (O'ahu) Cohort 8

WENDY ROSEN

HARC (HAWAII AGRICULTURE RESEARCH CENTER) -
SEEDS4TOMORROW

HARC: Seeds4Tomorrow Program

WHAT IS SEEDS4TOMORROW?

Seeds4Tomorrow is a joint effort of farmers, food processors, conservation experts, researchers, and the culinary arts communities coming together to engage students in the variety of fields related to agriculture. Coaches direct the teams of students, instructors and experts teach a variety of hands-on lessons, and students will be in the field and the lab learning and having fun.

OUR MISSION

To teach our keiki about potential agriculture jobs in Hawaii that do not require daily laboring in the hot sun. We focus on Middle school kids and offer 4-5 intersession camps yearly.



HAVE YOU NOTICED INTEREST FROM YOUR PARTICIPANTS EVEN AT THIS YOUNG AGE?

I'm seeing that as kids transition out of middle school, they want to continue participating in the program because our garden becomes a social destination. It also allows for acquiring community service hours (which are required by the DOE) and we do fun activities like dying face masks with the olena (turmeric) that we grew or conducting taste testing with the recently harvested popcorn!

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF AND YOUR PROGRAM IN THE FUTURE?

My goal is to offer paid summer internships for High School students. This year I have just one volunteer intern from Radford High who is working 2 days a week in the HARC genetics lab, the papaya propagation lab, and helping fellow GoFarmer, Rick Chavez with his farm! If the kids have any interest in ag related careers when they head off to college, I want them to have a connection to come home to!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING TO GROW?

My favorite crop to grown is popcorn because it catches the interest of all ages.

WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF YOUR JOB?

The most rewarding part of my job is seeing the kids eating the food they have grown or seeing them return to the garden for our monthly garden days.

WHERE CAN WE FIND YOU?

We've started selling our produce in small quantities at Down To Earth in Kailua and hope to increase the quantity with time.

You can also sign up or find more information on the Seeds4Tomorrow program on HARC's Website.



<http://www.harc-hspa.com/>