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**LOCAL NONPROFIT LAUNCHES GARDENING CAMPAIGN TO ENCOURAGE  
QUARANTINE LEARNING WHILE HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT**

**HONOLULU, HI (June 30, 2020)** – During quarantine at home, students K-12 statewide participated in a youth at-home gardening campaign sponsored by a partnership between the East O’ahu nonprofit Mālama Maunalua, Ceeds of Peace, and the Blue Zones Project Hawai’i. The Seed and Serve campaign was designed to grow the next generation of sustainability leaders across our islands while keeping students productive during the stay-at-home order.

Over the course of the months of May and June, Seed and Serve has engaged approximately 769 students and their families from 222 schools and educational institutions across O’ahu, Hawai’i, Maui, Kaua’i and Moloka’i. Each registrant received a seed packet to begin growing their own at-home garden (1 packet per student). Students could choose from a variety of seeds provided by the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa’s College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Seed Laboratory, including Mānoa lettuce, eggplant, Hawaiian chili pepper, or grape tomatoes. Students were encouraged to share their gardening photos on social media using the hashtag #seedandserve.

Mālama Maunalua’s interest in such a campaign is directly tied to the health of Maunalua Bay. “In the Maunalua Bay region, there are over 5,000 storm drains and 5 shopping centers that all feed into the Bay,” says Doug Harper, Executive Director of Mālama Maunalua. “Gardening helps mitigate impacts of impervious surfaces and pollutants making their way into our ocean ecosystems through bio-filtration which traps dirty water into the soil.”

The second phase of Seed and Serve is currently launching in partnership with the non-profit Protect and Preserve Hawai'i where free 'A'ali'i seeds from Pia Valley in Niu will be distributed. In this phase, students could grow their own native trees at home or have the option to cultivate their own 'A'ali'i and return them to Pia Valley to outplant these saplings. This initiative will allow youth to personally plant and dedicate these trees toward restoring the native forest and watershed within the ahupua'a of Niu, which directly feeds into Maunalua Bay.

### **About Mālama Maunalua**

Mālama Maunalua is a community-based, non-profit stewardship organization committed to conserving and restoring a healthy and productive Maunalua Bay through habitat restoration, science and planning, and education and outreach. The Maunalua Bay region stretches from Black Point (Kupikipikio) in the west to Portlock Point (Kawaihoa Point) in the east and to the summit of the Ko'olau Mountains. The region is approximately 28 miles in size and has eight miles of shoreline fronting the Bay. Maunalua Bay comprises about 6.5 miles of submerged waters. Ten watersheds feed into the Bay.

Learn more at [www.malamamaunalua.org](http://www.malamamaunalua.org).

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