



Position Title: Culinary Garden Lead Educator for Māla'ai: The Culinary Garden of Waimea Middle School

Garden Site Location

Waimea Middle Public Conversion Charter School
67-1229 Mamalahoa Hwy, Kamuela, HI 96743

Program Description

Māla'ai is a non-profit organization located on Moku o Keawe. We operate The Culinary Garden of Waimea Middle School and the Hawai'i Island School Garden Network. The Culinary Garden has been in operation since 2005 with a 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. Please refer to the "About Us" sections of [our website](#) to learn more about our history and programs.

Job Brief

Māla'ai seeks an experienced and motivated educator to lead garden-based programming with middle school aged children in an outdoor environment. The garden educator is responsible for managing the well-established outdoor classroom and facilitating meaningful garden lessons for the students of Waimea Middle School (WMS) that encourage curiosity and a connection to 'āina. The lead garden educator must collaborate with Waimea Middle School leadership and faculty to maintain partnerships and cohesion between the Māla'ai program and the School. This position reports to the Executive Director, manages one part time employee/garden assistant, and manages volunteers as needed.

Responsibilities

Program Implementation

- Oversee & teach garden classes to WMS students in alignment with Māla'ai [core values](#), [Garden Agreements](#) and [school wide values](#)
- Maintain a positive, inclusive, student-focused culture
- Collaborate with WMS teachers to develop cross-curricular garden lessons
- Facilitate cultural sharing opportunities and interactions with local STEAM (A for 'āina) professionals
- Create and manage overall garden schedule for middle school classes, volunteers, visitors and interns
- Work with Executive Director to create and manage schedule for community events and

workshops

- Maintain established garden systems and procedures with an eye for innovation when necessary
- Maintain Garden log of class activities and Harvest Log, including photos
- Manage garden program budget
- Facilitate program evaluations in alignment with grant requirements and program goals; Utilize evaluations and reflection to develop program goals and implement long-range direction and policy with Executive Director, Board, and appropriate staff.

Garden Care

- Guide garden planting, cultivation, harvesting & cooking
- Coordinate overall maintenance and care of the garden
- Manage building & maintenance of garden structures and irrigation systems
- Ensure a safe and productive work environment
- Maintain records of garden work

Management and Training

- Welcome visitors
- Train, supervise & support volunteers, independent contractors, and student interns
- Use existing policy to find & evaluate interns & volunteers
- Manage and work with Garden Assistant to achieve program goals

Community Outreach, Networking and Partnerships

- Participate in Māla'ai events & community outreach
- Write "garden update" for bi-monthly newsletter
- Assist in fundraising activities and events when appropriate
- Plan and implement weekend workdays with Garden Assistant
- Liaison with educational and sustainable agriculture groups
- Maintain effective communication w/WMS teachers, admin, staff

Requirements

- ≥3 years of teaching experience in Hawai'i
- Experience working outside
- High school diploma or equivalent required, Bachelor's Degree preferred
- Ability and willingness to maintain positive relationships with Waimea Middle School teachers and administrators
- Demonstrate a passion for working with middle school-aged children (ages 11-14)
- Able to supervise and implement various activities around gardening (planting, weeding, watering, propagating, etc) for middle school-aged students
- Desire and ability to prepare and eat locally grown food including traditional Hawaiian crops

- Knowledge and experience maintaining gardens in Hawai'i
- Knowledge of and willingness to implement Hawaiian protocols and practices
- Appreciation and acknowledgement of the other cultures of Hawai'i including Japanese, Filipino, Portuguese and Marshalese

Additional Skills & Experience

- Familiarity with the education and/or food systems stakeholders on Hawai'i Island
- Punctual, dependable, self-motivated, and able to collaborate with others
- Able to communicate clearly, effectively, and in a timely manner, including consistent email and phone communication
- Willingness to learn and grow professionally
- Knowledge of performance evaluation techniques and metrics
- Working knowledge of Google Suite and Zoom video conferencing; willingness to learn NRDS (Natural Resource Data Solutions) database software for garden records and reporting

Compensation

- 40 hours/wk - salaried, exempt, and at-will
- \$52,000 - \$62,400 (\$25-\$30/hr) starting annual salary depending on experience
- Monthly cell phone stipend
- Health benefits including dental and vision
- Paid vacation and holidays
- Ongoing professional development opportunities

Learn more about our program: <https://malaai.org/the-culinary-garden-of-waimea-middle-school>

Application Process

- Please complete [this form](#) which requires a **resume and cover letter** to be sent to [hiring@malaai.org](mailto: hiring@malaai.org). We will review materials and schedule interviews on a rolling basis beginning May 20, 2023.

Māla'ai is committed to a policy of non-discrimination. Employment candidates and employees will be considered and managed without regard to race, color, gender, national origin, age, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other basis in accordance with applicable law.