

Ka Lau

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LCPCS Receives 2017 Aloha ‘Āina Award



L to R: Jenny Bach, Todd Otake, and Donna Mitts

LCPCS is the proud recipient of the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture’s 2017 Farm to School Aloha ‘Āina Award. LCPCS Farm to School coordinator Jenny Bach, along with LCPCS Garden Educator Donna Mitts, flew to O‘ahu on August 30 to receive the award, and share the school’s mana‘o at an annual Farm to School Symposium. State Farm to School Coordinator Robyn Pfahl put it like this:

“We are excited to honor the great farm to school (F2S) connection work Laupāhoehoe CPCS has done with its inspirationally innovative and integrative projects combining amazing school gardens, nutrition education, agriculture education, [connection] with... local ag-communities, school to farm field trips and school visits, composting, animal husbandry, [and development of menus using] locally grown foods.... Your F2S

programs nurture keikis’ relationship with the `āina in an inspirationally holistic way at Laupāhoehoe, and we hope you will accept this award in honor of your amazing aloha `āina work...”

Credit is due to many staff and students at LCPCS, but the biggest thank yous go to Jenny Bach, who has been managing the Farm to School program at LCPCS since 2012; Todd Otake, LCPCS agriculture teacher; and Donna Mitts, who has been working with the school since last year. Ms. Bach says she’s excited that LCPCS’s garden-based education is inspiring many students to grow gardens of their own at home. “That’s a good measure of success,” she says, “it feels really good.”

LCPCS’s garden and ag program also received a 2017 Aloha Grown Mālama Honua Award in July. Two percent of every Aloha Grown sale goes to a Mālama Honua Fund, which annually awards local nonprofits, schools, organizations and initiatives that embody their philosophy of sustaining Hawai‘i’s land, people and culture.

The “There” There

First, a little background. Gertrude Stein was a celebrated author, poet and playwright who lived from 1874 to 1946, and was raised in Oakland, California. Upon returning to Oakland after nearly 45 years, the story goes, she complained, “There is no there there (anymore).” The city had changed drastically from the time of her childhood, and her old home had been replaced by a sub-division.

Over the years, the phrase was used to disparage Oakland, but gradually



A “There” sculpture in Oakland.

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the idea that there *is* a “there” there has become something of a rallying cry as Oakland attempts to reinvent itself. Proud Oakland residents have put up signs, flags and even a statue of the word “There.”

Director Garcia (who lived in Oakland for many years), says one of his goals is to make LCPCS part of the “there” along the Hāmākua Coast. As the sugar cane industry disappeared, vast changes occurred in east Hawai‘i. Among them was a decrease in the school’s role as a center of community life and pride. Director Garcia says that’s changing, and now you know what he means when he says LCPCS is going to be the “there” there.

A Message from the LCPCS Governing Board

If you have been searching for a truly meaningful way to give back to your community and influence the well-being and success of its young people, please consider LCPCS Board membership. The LCPCS Governing Board is seeking members who have a passion for education, understand the art of governance, and have specific skills to share (such as legal, financial, human resources, organizational and board development). Board members serve three year terms. Each member is expected to devote about eight to ten hours per month to meetings and sub-committee work. Board meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Interested candidates are invited to visit lcpcs.org. Go to the “Administration” tab and select “LCPCS Governing Board” from the drop-down menu; then scroll to bottom of the page to download an Application and Job Description. The completed Application form, a Letter of Interest stating why you want to join the Board, and a resume may be submitted to: Pam Elders, Chair, at governingboard@lcpcs.org.

The LCPCS Board is committed to continuing the great legacy of Laupāhoehoe’s school as a proud symbol of community commitment, kōkua, and strength.

Seasider Spotlight



L to R: Oriah Nagahiro, Pakalana Ahin-Benoist, Coach Sherer, Jaylen Salboro and Austin Gonzales

LCPCS has a cross country team again! There was student demand for it, says Coach Kurtis Sherer, so the school registered with the Big Island Interscholastic Federation to make it happen. Tenth-graders Pakalana Ahin-Benoist and Jaylen Salboro, ninth-grader Oriah Nagahiro, and eleventh-grader Austin Gonzales stepped forward to fill out the team. Jaylen says he joined “to make new friends and have fun doing it,” while Austin is running to train for the upcoming basketball season.

“I enjoy that they’re enjoying it,” says Coach Sherer, adding that the sport is a good opportunity for would-be athletes who aren’t into team sports. It takes a lot of resolve to run long distances in this climate. “Those kids were pretty red,” observed Shantell Urbanozo, after one practice. Congratulations to these students for trying something new and challenging!