

East Oahu Sun

your community newspaper

Volunteers Help Restore Kamilo Nui Valley

By HAWKINS BIGGINS

On Saturday, April 2, a large group of volunteers gathered in Kamilo Nui Valley to begin the exciting process of restoring the land of an old nursery to being an agriculturally productive part of the community. This ambitious undertaking is being spearheaded by the members of Aloha 'Aina 'O Kamilo Nui project in hopes to make the land productive and usable for the entire community.

The three-acre farm was originally the Chrysanthemums of Hawaii Nursery, although it sat vacant when a land speculator proceeded to buy it, which brought it to its current deteriorated state. With permission from and collaboration with the Dean T. ohana (lease holder), community efforts are underway to revitalize this once-productive land. Elizabeth Reilly of Hawaii Kai and Jeannine Johnson of Aina Haina, together with Livable Hawaii Kai Hui is helping or-

ganize this process. "I am not a farmer, but I am an Ag enthusiast," Reilly said.

The group's mission statement reads: "Our mission is to restore the Kamilo Nui Valley watershed as a sustainable, culturally and community-based model for land use and management, inspired in part by the Hawaiian traditional values of ahupua'a for the benefit of future generations." It is part of an overall malama aina and beautification

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plan for the East Honolulu (Maunaloa) region. Within this plan is the idea of combining conservation with agriculture and the Hawaiian culture.

The Saturday volunteers are beginning an estimated three-month process. The first step is to clean up the land, removing garbage and debris and sorting out what is usable and what is not.

Through Matson's Ka Ipu 'Aina project, the group was given a Matson container for the Saturday clean up. Included in Matson's donation is hauling away the segregated litter/trash collected. Metals will go to Schnitzer Steel, tires to Unitek, green waste to Hawaiian Earth Products, burnable trash to H-power, and everything else will need to go to Waimanalo Gulch Landfill.



Volunteers gathered in front of the limu piles at the Aloha 'Aina O' Kamilo Nui restoration project in Kamilo Nui Valley.

his gloves and was actively involved in the clean-up process, organizing old cement nursery pots for recycled use.

He shared his reasons for being there saying, "This represents the community spirit in Hawaii Kai and the levels of excellence that we want to promote. Although it is grunt work, it is very important for the future of our community

ocean and land together. Malama Maunaloa has been in the process of cleaning up the Muanalua Bay through collecting invasive seaweed, or limu, and depositing it in Kamilo Nui Valley. The seaweed is then mixed in with soil and turned into a compost material high in potassium and nitrogen. They have been working with students from UH and

another way to help promote local agriculture. Fransmeier said, "Turning the waste from the invasive algae into a resource is one of the best things we can do for an island that needs to grow their own food."

Volunteers from the Master Gardener Program shared the enthusiasm about the project as well. They were excited to learn more about the process of composting with limu. The Master Gardener Program is connected to UH and the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources or (CTAHR) which runs a free hotline run by volunteers set up to answer any gardening related questions.

Hawaii Pacific University Associate Professor of Anthropology, Lynette Cruz was leading a group of students who were volunteering and learning more about local agriculture on a work field trip. "This gets them to understand where food comes from. It is not as simple as going to the grocery store and buying strawberries in

Photo Credit: HAWAIIAN BUSINESS

Representative Gene Ward joined the group, wearing his old grubby jeans. He was accompanied by his daughter. He put on

and the environment.”

Kamilo Nui Valley is working together with Malama Maunalua in a process that once again ties the

experimenting using it on certain crops and studying the results.

Kimō, with Malama Maunalua, helped organize this volunteer work day in the valley. He noted that although there are numerous volunteers helping clean up the bay, the process of what to do with the invasive algae that is removed is a key part of the process. “Helping restore this lot is important so that we can restore the nursery and get into the planting side and make the entire cycle more tangible for the community.” He said.

One volunteer who was particularly keen on the process of using limu for fertilizer was Justin Fransmeier from Island Foodscaping and Design. He was enthusiastic about this project as

the winter. Rather, the cycle of growing food is complex.”

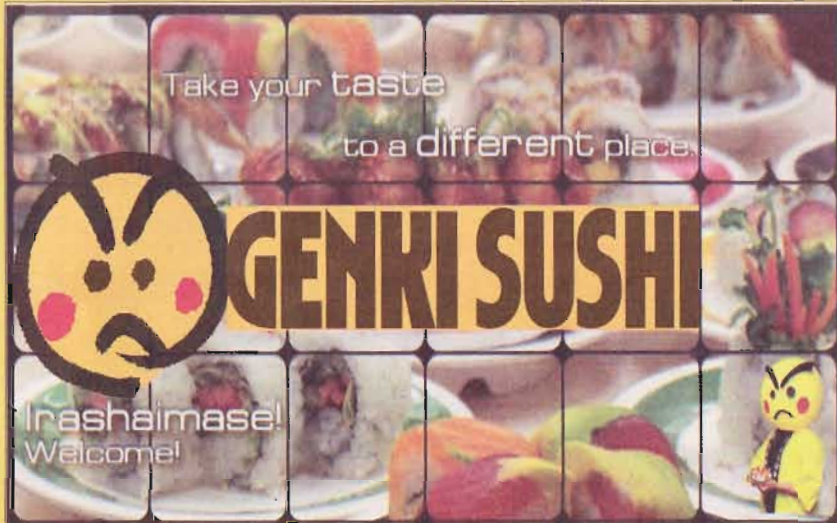
This project is connecting many community organizations in a look at the entire process of what it takes to manage the land, care for the land and eat off the land. The finished site will include a greenhouse for showcasing and educating the public on native Hawaiian plants from the Maunalua area as well as selling traditional garden and gift plants to help maintain a revenue stream to help with overhead expenses. The nursery will also include land for the community to farm whether in pots, aquaponics or in the ground. It hopes to be a living example for neighboring farmers to learn about modern and Hawaiian agricultural methods fused with land conservation best practices. Aloha ‘Aina ‘O Kamilo Nui step one clean up runs April through June on select Saturdays from 8:30 – 10:30 AM.

April: 4/16 & 4/23. May: 5/21 & 5/28. June: 6/4 & 6/11. The public is encouraged to spend a little time ‘in the country’ and experience their motto, “aloha aina, malama aina” and pledge to fill at least 15 bags of opala (garbage) or help rebuild the nursery in other ways needed. For more details to go to: kamilonuivalley.org, or call (808) 864-8081.

April Spring Fair

Aina Haina Shopping Center

Take your taste
to a different place.



Irashaimase!
Welcome!

APRIL 2011 ~ SPRING FAIR SPECIAL

Monday thru Thursday all day!!

Yellow Plates \$1.00! Green Plates \$2.00!
Regular \$1.50 Regular \$2.20

Red Plates \$2.00! Silver Plates \$3.00!
Regular \$2.80 Regular \$3.80

Black Plates \$4.00!
Regular \$4.80

Let The Good Times Roll @ Genki Sushi...!

Coupons and/or discounts of any kind are not accepted during Spring Fair hours
Prices apply to colored plates only. Spring Fair prices apply April 2011, Aina Haina store only

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH



(Roman Catholic)

5919 Kalanianaʻole Hwy.
Parish Office 396-0551

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

Weekend Masses: Saturday at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday at 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses: Monday-Friday at 5:00 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon-Fri: 8:30am to 4:30pm

Sat: 8:30am to 12:00pm