



News Release  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The Hawai`i Green Collar Institute: Make Some Green For Being Green**

Hawai`i Green Collar Institute (HGCI) is now accepting applications from Leeward O`ahu high school and college students for its inaugural program that launches on October 29, 2010.

HGCI's new program introduces Leeward O`ahu's high school and college students to environmental and climate change issues in their communities and inspiring them to pursue careers in Hawaii's emerging "green collar" economy.

HGCI is an educational partnership between the Mälama Learning Center and Leeward Community College Hälau `Ike O Pu`uloa (Native Hawaiian Student Support Programs) with initial funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Ka Papa O Kakuhihewa Fund.

Over four weekends spanning five months, students will visit sites on O`ahu to learn about food security, waste and recycling, energy, and the health of our oceans and streams. On these visits, participants will gain hands-on experience with jobs that relate to each site and also interact with professionals to better understand those jobs. The students will also work in teams to complete an educational project that benefits the community.

In addition to exposing students to "green collar" jobs, each participant that attends all four sessions, completes the group project and gives a presentation at the program's conclusion, will be awarded \$200. The program also offers support after completion to connect students to more experiences in the "green collar" field.

The Institute sessions are October 29 & 30, 2010, January 7 & 8, February 18 & 19, and March 4 & 5, 2011. The Institute will be held at Leeward Community College in Pearl City with fieldwork & service learning trips across the island of O`ahu with a special focus on Leeward O`ahu.

Institute coordinator, Pauline Sato, states, "The Leeward Coast of O`ahu is a beautiful place with a strong sense of cultural history and communities grounded to the land and sea. However, it is also troubled with numerous 'quality of life' issues such as high rates of unemployment, homelessness, and poverty, bottle-neck traffic, landfills near capacity, polluted streams and beaches, illegal and toxic dumps, industrial pollution and degraded habitat of native plant species. Through education, we believe people and places can heal and become restored."

MORE MORE MORE

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High school juniors (minimum age 16) through college juniors living within the Waipahu to Mākaha communities are eligible to apply. All applicants must submit a completed application form and at least two reference forms, available on-line at [www.malamalearningcenter.org](http://www.malamalearningcenter.org).

All materials must be received by September 1, 2010. A registration fee of \$25 is required to reserve a space. Scholarships are available for students who are experiencing financial hardship.

For more information, please contact [info@malamalearningcenter.org](mailto:info@malamalearningcenter.org) or call 692-8200 ext. 2252

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Mālama  
Learning  
Center

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### About Mālama Learning Center

The Mālama Learning Center is a non-profit organization that brings art, science, conservation, and culture together to promote sustainable living throughout Hawai`i. Located in West O`ahu, in the city of Kapolei, the Mālama Learning Center is the result of a shared vision among educators, conservation groups, businesses, and community members to create an innovative learning center in Kapolei to promote healthy, sustainable living in an island environment.

### About Leeward Community College

As one of the seven community colleges in the University of Hawai`i system, Leeward Community College provides access to higher education and plays an important role in workforce development in Leeward and Central O`ahu. The College focuses on students, teaching, learning, and responsiveness to community needs. With courses in more than 100 subject areas, Leeward CC offers a comprehensive curriculum for immediate entry into the workforce or for transfer towards a baccalaureate degree. Leeward Community College, with diverse student population and experienced and caring faculty, has provided access, affordability, and a high quality education to the people of Hawai`i since 1968. Halau `Ike o Pu`uloa houses all Native Hawaiian Student Support Programs.

