

Hawai'i

Kokua Hawai'i Foundation

[Film: 5 minutes](#)

The Kokua Hawai'i Foundation was founded by Jack Johnson and his wife Kim, who wanted to share the importance of caring for the planet with Hawaii's youth. Through catchy songs like 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle,' and enabling schools to run field trips, gardening education, and nutrition programs, the foundation is helping to create an environmentally conscious generation.



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Grades K – 4

Health & Social Studies

Health – Standard 2. Know environmental and external factors that affect individual and community health

- Know how individuals, communities, and states cooperate to control environmental problems and maintain a healthy environment

Environmental Science/Geography – Standard 14. Understand how human actions modify the physical environment

- Know how people affect the environment in negative (e.g., litter, pollution) and positive (e.g., recycling, picking up litter) ways

Civics - Standard 27. Understand how certain character traits enhance citizens' ability to fulfill personal and civic responsibilities

- Know that a responsibility is a duty to do something or not to do something
- Understand why civic responsibility is important, and know examples of civic responsibility

Resource - [McREL Content Knowledge – Standards & Benchmarks](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ☞ What do the words **reduce, reuse, recycle** mean? Why is it important to **reduce, reuse and recycle**?
- ☞ Can you give examples of how you have **reduced** your use of something? What have you **reused**? What kinds of things do you **recycle**?
- ☞ Have people always had to **reduce, reuse, and recycle**? Why is it so important now?
- ☞ *Kokua* means 'to help or support'. How is the Kokua Hawai'i Foundation helping and supporting the children of Hawai'i? How does recycling in Hawai'i help children everywhere?
- ☞ Does someone singing a song about **reduce, reuse, recycle** help you remember to do these things?

ACTIVITY

3 is a Magic Number

In groups of three, *create a reduce, reuse, recycle song*. Use instruments made of recycled materials to create a rhythm for your song. Put on a concert with your classmates.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Excerpts from interview at [explore.org](https://www.explore.org)

Kaliko Amona started out as a volunteer coordinator for the very first Kokua Festival and now leads environmental programs for kids through the Kokua Hawai'i Foundation.



What does the Kokua Hawai'i Foundation do?



The [Kokua Hawai'i Foundation](https://www.kokua.org) provides students with experiences that will enhance their appreciation for and understanding of their environment so they will be lifelong stewards of the earth.

How did it start?

Jack and Kim Johnson founded Kokua Hawai'i Foundation in 2003. They wanted to give back to Hawai'i and support a cause they really believe in. They wanted to support hands-on learning for kids and really foster in them a love for the environment, as *keiki* (children) are the seeds of change to preserving and protecting our beautiful islands.

What is the 'AINA program and how many schools participate in it?

'AINA IS stands for Actively Integrating Nutrition & Agriculture In Schools. It is a farm-to-school program dedicated to connecting children to their land, waters and food in order to grow a healthier future for Hawai'i. There are now 10 schools participating in 'AINA IS. We consulted with a program in Manhattan Beach, CA called GrowingGreat and built upon many of their lessons. We developed some lessons from scratch. Garden Educators Betty Gearen, Tia Silvasy, and Lydi Morgan developed the educational resources for the garden program. The kids grow a variety of herbs, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, carrots, corn, beans, squash, kalo (taro), lettuce, edible flowers, and other foods in the 'AINA IS gardens.

What is Project Kai?

Project Kai gives field trip opportunities to students to learn about Hawaii's ocean and natural resources, encouraging environmental stewardship by connecting children to the land and the ocean that sustains them through in-the-field educational programs and activities. The project started in 2008 and is a partnership between the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program and Kokua Hawai'i Foundation. About five schools have taken advantage of the funding so far. We are working with schools and field trip venues to create more ocean-oriented field trip opportunities.



How do Jack and Kim participate?

Kim and Jack are very active in Kokua programs. Kim is our executive director and involved in all of our programs. Jack is an active board member and provides a lot

of input into the vision and direction of our programming. They both attend several of the educational events that we host. Both of them have a great vision for the foundation. Jack's public involvement with Kokua has raised people's awareness and support for our programs so that people around the world know what Kokua Hawai'i Foundation is. We've had great success with the Kokua Festival, and that's a direct result of Jack's and other musicians' participation and the support of their fans. School performances by Jack have also been a great incentive for students and teachers participating in our programs. This spring we're planning an online auction and membership drive and Jack's involvement is bound to help make it a success.