

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
MILILANI UKA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
94-380 Kuahelani Avenue  
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

June 1, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

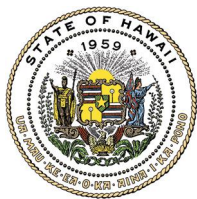
ECOS Project has been a wonderful resource for our young future leaders to connect to their community and engage in civic responsibilities. As an educator, I am constantly looking for leads for my students to provide them opportunities to give back to their community. Sheldon Saiki and his ECOS Project team has proven to be very professional, knowledgeable and enthusiastic in connecting with our students and motivating them to engage in jobs to improve various areas in our community. The first project that we worked together with ECOS Project was at Camp Timberline where my high school student-athletes participated in the planting of trees along the ridgeline in Makakilo. The second project that we collaborated with ECOS was the beach clean-up and tree planting at Mermaid beach in Nanakuli. This experience provided my high school student-athletes first-hand knowledge about the abundance of waste spread along our beaches and coastline. Many of them had frequented the beach, but never realized the vast pollution spread throughout the beach community. The third project collaborated with ECOS was with my elementary school students. These students were tasked with helping with the micro-plastic problem along the shores of Sherwood Forest beach. To all my students' astonishment, they could not believe the amount of plastic collected from just a small area that they cleaned up. They collected about 7 pounds of micro-plastic in about 2 hours! It has been about several months since this activity, and my students still talk about this event and how much fun they had while learning.

Shelden and his ECOS project team has been a very reliable resource for students to engage in community service projects. Many students "say" they want to help our community, and ECOS project provides the means for our students to "do" what they "say". The fundraising aspect connected to the community service projects is just an added bonus to the whole experience. It is a much more meaningful way for our students to raise money by working in their community rather than standing on streets with fishnets in hand. It is this type of intrinsic reward of feeling good about being an active participant in taking care of their community that we want to instill in today's youth.

Sincerely,

Neal T. Sakaue  
Mililani Uka School Counselor

**David Ige**  
Governor



**Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto**  
Superintendent

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**MILILANI UKA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
94-380 Kuahelani Avenue  
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

Student Council Advisor