

CMORE GEMS Report
"Mālama Wai"

Mālama Honua Public Charter School

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Kindergarten's focus of study is around wai (water) and understanding how all water forms connect all living things to the physical environment. As a school we partake in community service and work not only with ocean and fresh water, but with farms and fishponds in Windward O'ahu. During the 2014 school year, students were first exposed to plankton in our water systems and how human practices can impact these microorganisms, which connects to all life on Earth in an interdependent fashion. Students were fascinated with plankton during our one exposure utilizing a plankton tow and microscopes.

Through the generosity of the CMORE/GEMS grant Mālama Honua PCS students received a plankton tow kit, supplies, microscope, and teacher professional development that allow students to look closely and study not only plankton, but also marine debris. Students have the opportunity to learn and observe these important organisms and debris that impact the wahi pana that they are studying for the year.



With the school microscopes the students are investigating the different marine debris that they picked up from their wahi pana (special place).

As a Kumu I use "C'more" as a tool to teach whole class. In this picture the students were taking a closer look at the marine debris that we picked up from our wahi pana (special place). We are having a discussion about how this can affect our wahi pana and those that live in and around it.

