

Sampling of Microbial Communities in Kalapaki Bay, Kauai
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During May of 2012 approximately 90 Kauai High School students took part in a study focusing on marine microbes of Kalapaki Bay.

The objectives of the investigation were to determine what marine microbes are found near shore and study the inter-relationships with other marine life.

Near shore water samples were collected and brought to class for analysis.

The class used a digital microscope funded through the C-MORE Gems Grant to observe, identify, and classify plankton.

Data collection sheets were used to log information for future analysis or comparison with future studies.

Students were excited to do a hands on lab and discover that there were many microbes in the samples. The Digital Microscope was a fantastic tool that made these microscopic organisms larger than life on the projector screen.

Next year our goal is to collect samples in Kalapaki Bay using Remote Operated Vehicles designed by students.

Samples will then be analyzed and categorized using the Digital Microscope.

