



Maui Master Gardeners Visit the Maui Farm

By Elise Mebel, 2013 Maui Master Gardener Trainee and Volunteer at The Maui Farm

On Saturday February 9, 2013, 9 intrepid Maui Master Gardener Trainees met at The Maui Farm (www.themaufarm.org) for a tour, discussion and volunteer work project. Organized by the author of this article, and joined by a Certified Maui Master Gardener (and fellow TMF volunteer) Geri Lim, we were lead throughout the morning by Lisa Chakmak, the Farm manager at The Maui Farm. We began the morning by participating in a few group exercises to introduce us to the philosophies of The Maui Farm. The Farm provides farm-based, family-centered programs that teach essential life skills for self-sufficient living and we were there to learn about the unique growing practices Lisa and her team employ at The Farm.

Our main project was to create a "no-dig" bed and we broke into groups collecting the "greens", sifting compost, and building the wire structure to contain the beds. We learned that a "no-dig bed" is the quickest and easiest way to begin a vegetable patch that quite literally composts itself while providing a nutrient-rich home for vegetables. After some refreshingly hard work we were happy to see our labor come to fruition as you can see in the photo below. All of the volunteers enjoyed their time on The Farm immensely and were happy to know of a potential organization with which to volunteer their time upon completion of our Master Gardener training. Trainees present were Elise Mebel, Patty & Larry Yonashiro, Eleanor Dudley, Dawitt Abraha, Alan Muniz, Johnny Kahakaloha, and Donnie Becker.

