



## The UH Master Gardener Class of 2014

*By Jayme Grzebik*

Our Last Day with the Class of 2014, we hosted a speaker, watched project presentations and enjoyed a potluck lunch together in the Garden. Every year it is so great to see the diversity of local community members interested in the MG Program. This year 41 Trainees successfully completed the training class and will be working throughout the next year to obtain their very first certification in the UH MG Program.

Our speaker was Certified UH Master Gardener & Kokua Hawaii Foundation School Garden Coordinator, Lydi Morgan-Bernal, presenting how MGs can be a resource for school gardens on O'ahu. There are over 70 schools on O'ahu that currently have a school garden, according to a County-wide survey conducted in 2012 by the O'ahu Farm to School Garden Hui. Local schools are in need of information when questions arise in the Garden. Many in the class, about 25(!), signed up to conduct on-site consultations, take the Aina IS docent training and host a weekly gardening club. Great Start!

After Lydi's 15 minute presentation, we watched presentations from 5 group projects.

Irrigation, Observation Bee Hive, Pollinator-friendly Vertical Wall Garden, Medicinal Garden and Vermicompost were all projects that our Class of 2014 spent time on. Each project was given these basic requirements:

- ▶ Gain knowledge in the topic
- ▶ Meet at least 2 times to help maintain Herb Garden area (where most of these projects are implemented)
- ▶ Research the topic
- ▶ Create educational signage or brochure; or Design a family-friendly activity about bees
- ▶ Present and share what you've learned to class on May 30th

All projects were high-caliber and we now have some unique displays and dynamic brochures and hand-outs for educational outreach events. We'll continue to work together on the projects and the educational materials that were produced.





At our potluck lunch, our MG Founder, Dale Sato, created arrangements that served as a conversation piece for our new MGs. Each person sitting around the arrangement had to try to identify the leaves, seeds, fruits and flowers used. There were some hard ones! Great lesson in identification techniques!

A BIG Mahalo to the Class of 2014 for the time and efforts spent to learn more about home gardening in Hawaii. Lets keep GROW-ING together!

