



University of Hawai'i Master Gardener Program

News from East Hawai'i

Compiled by Bill Miller, EHIMGA President

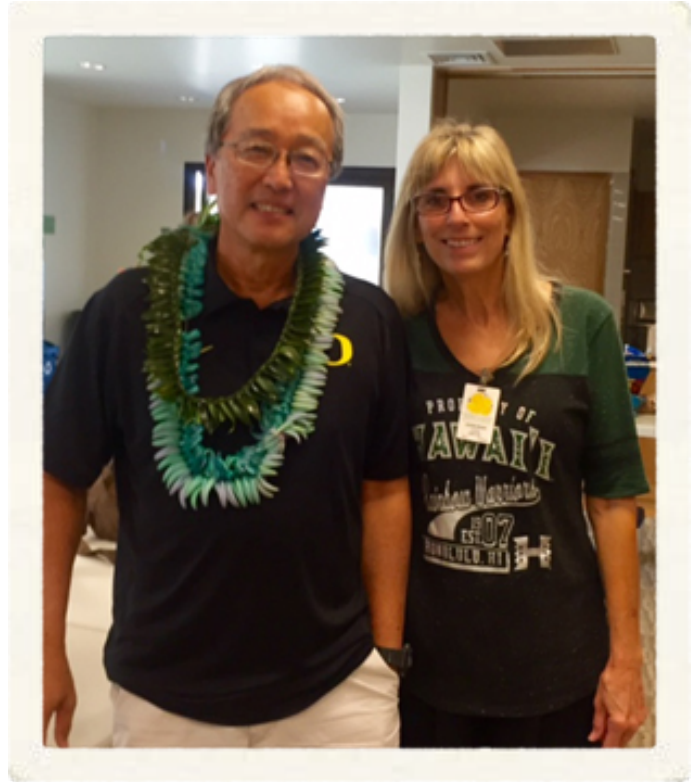
Aloha Andrew!

Andrew Kawabata, Extension Agent at CTAHR in charge of the East Hawai'i Master Gardener Program since 2003, retired 12/2015.

Andrew was charged with the responsibility of starting up the Master Gardener Program after some years of lapse in Hilo in 2003. The written information gathered for each participant measured a full 3" binder, very informative lectures by himself and other CTAHR extension agents, field trips, plant ID challenges and so much more to give us the necessary information to pass on to home gardeners. Our class's additional challenge was to form an association and hold a plant sale 6 months after graduating, which helped this first group to bond and gave the then Hawai'i Island Master Gardeners a great financial base.

Andrew held classes were held every year except when classroom space was not available due to renovations. The program grew not only in numbers but also in recognition within the community. All this happened under his tutelage, giving much more of his time than assigned by his job as extension agent for Ornamentals. During all those years and classes Andrew served the MG Program as an inspiration with meaningful project ideas, shared his resources and time beyond anyone's expectations.

During his tenure, the help hours expanded to 3 times per week to assist the local population home gardeners, helped organized outreach projects to schools and private groups, and planted landscapes in public places. He suggested numerous ideas to make the Master Gardeners look good and feel successful in their endeavors. In 2013 the name was changed to East Hawai'i Island Master Gardener.



The photo is of Andrew Kawabata and our EHIMGA Past President Deborah Luce at Andrew's Retirement Party on 14 January 2016. Andrew retired on 31 December 2015 and we will miss his leadership of our little band of gardeners. We sent him off with an outstanding potluck full of diet-busters and some of the most delicious desserts ever. He was presented with many jams, jellies, honey, some rare plants, and a \$100 gift certificate to S Tokunaga's fishing supply store. We wish him the best and we will miss his guiding hand.

His positive reinforcement and quality control of passing on research based information to the public will always be appreciated by the MG's and CTAHR and the public.

I/we are sorry to not have Andrew available for questions and help, but do wish him all the best for a long and adventurous retirement with lots of great catches. (fish that is!)

Daghild Rick
EHIMGA Treasurer
Class of 2003

Organic Gardening 101 Distance Learning Event

Eight Master Gardeners from the Big Island participated in a lecture by Dr. Ted Radovich on O'ahu. Dr. Radovich was giving a lecture called Organic Gardening 101 to the 2016 class of new Master Gardeners on Maui! The internet is changing the way we can learn about gardening, from YouTube videos, to online classes and now to be in a classroom setting

and learning about gardening in Hawai'i from people who are teaching and studying how to garden **here**. As we all found out, it's easy to garden here but it's also hard if you try to garden like you did on the mainland. We appreciate all the effort the staff and instructors put in to make this happen.



Blue Zones Project



The East Hawai'i Master Gardeners have partnered with the Blue Zones Project to keep people gardening in an increasingly urban environment. We are concentrating on easy to make raised beds and container gardening with readily available containers. A 5 gallon bucket, an old wagon, a broken wheelbarrow, or broken toys, can all be spruced up with some paint and planted with herbs and vegetables. Of course,

containers can also be purchased from various stores. We are trying to get the public to start a garden that they can keep close by and harvest weekly if not daily. There is a sense of pride when you eat what you grow. Plus, it's healthy!

We met in beautiful Liliuokalani Park and Gardens on a calm, cloudy day in Hilo. Seventy people showed up and talked story with Bill Miller, Kate Burroughs, and K.T. Eger about raised bed and container gardening as well as home made fruit fly traps made out of 2 liter bottles and methyl eugenol gelatin lures. Our main focus was to use whatever was handy to make a container garden; examples shown were 5 gallon bucket with holes, a used feed bag turned inside out, a Hello Kitty electric car, and a broken wheelbarrow. The portable raised bed garden was a hit. Questions ranged from millipedes, Chinese Rose Beetles, soil mix, fertilizers, Bt for caterpillars, and drainage. We gave away over 200 plants. Kabocha Squash, Chinese Peas, Rosemary, and Turmeric. We had 20 plants left over so they were donated to the new garden at the homeless shelter.



Photo: K.T. Eger

Bill Miller
EHIMGA President