



# KITCHEN GARDENERS INTERNATIONAL

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## Kihei Charter Middle School Garden

Sat, 06/29/2013 - 01:00 -- Mrs. Robinson

The Kihei Charter Middle School garden serves as an outdoor classroom and food garden for approximately 190 sixth through eighth grade students. The garden is located behind our school in Kihei, Maui, Hawaii. We are within a block of the ocean and our garden borders a wetland on one side. The garden covers a half acre abandoned lot that originally had very little soil.

The garden project began in 2009 with soil being trucked in a shade garden being constructed. We now have a thriving garden that has produced substantial harvests of tomatoes, Hawaiian sweet potatoes, kale, chard, beets, a variety of herbs and lettuces, eggplants, onions, many varieties of chili peppers, and corn.

We are very grateful for the Kitchen Gardens International Grant that has allowed us to finish installing irrigation and build an additional structure for seedlings and additional raised beds. It has only rained twice in Kihei this year so water is very important to us.

We have planted bananas around the perimeter of the garden and planted two raised beds of heirloom taro varieties. We are looking forward to our first taro harvest in September. A community partner will be assisting in the harvest and talking about the culture importance of taro as well as making poi with the students.

The students have used the garden for interdisciplinary projects on nutrition, soil science, water conservation, mathematics, measurement, and culture. Students also created beautifully illustrated cook books with recipes featuring garden produce. Students and their families cooked for their classmates. This way a great way to see students enjoy delicious and nutritious fresh vegetables.

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