



Representative Henry Aquino 38th House District Waipahu



February 2021

2021 United States Senate Youth Program



Congratulations to Waipahu High School Seniors **Hollie Rader** and **Ashley Valois**, selected as the two delegates representing Hawaii at the 2021 United States Senate Youth Program. The USSYP was founded in 1962 through Senate Resolution and each year two of the highest-achieving students from each state, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education system overseas are selected through an extremely competitive merit-based selection process held at the state departments of education nationwide. Hollie and Ashley will also each receive a \$10,000 college scholarship.



Waipahu's Academy of Natural Resources Nurtures Young Entrepreneurs

Working with a curriculum created by Hawai'i Agricultural Foundation's Young Entrepreneur Program (YEP), students in Waipahu's Model Natural Resources Academy experienced what it is like to create an original value-added product and bring it to market. YEP is an opportunity for students to gain real-world experience of building a business end-to-end including the creation of a product with local sourced material, writing a short-form business plan, production, marketing, sales and customer fulfillment. Student businesses receive start-up capital based on their business plan, as well as net revenue proceeds from sales.

Kisa Matlin, Natural Resources Production Pathway teacher gave high praise to the program, "The Young Entrepreneurs Program was an AMAZING experience for my students - they learned about local plants (Nīoi - Hawaiian chili pepper, and Pōhinahina, a native groundcover), how to apply for a grant, do market research, launch a product in an online marketplace, design advertisements, and perhaps most valuably, they learned to communicate professionally with customers."



Matlin shared 10th grade student, Jericho Cabrera's reflection, "Our product centers around one of our most drought-tolerant plants found in Waipahu: Pōhinahina possesses important healing properties and can be used to soothe skin irritation due to dryness, eczema, acne, and even sunburns. Waipahu High School is located in a place where many invasive species grow wild in our harsh, dry environment. But, through all those invasives (plants) we find hope in this small native plant that thrives in our harsh ecosystem. Pōhinahina protects itself against the harsh winds and salt coming off Pearl Harbor as well as the heat waves that tear through Waipahu. This plant brings hope in an area where many natives no longer grow. We chose the name Marauder Mea Kahiko (Marauder Traditions) to show our school pride and draw from the power of the 'āina (land) that raised us and the ingredients that grow from our native land. Like Pōhinahina, the students of Waipahu's Academy of Natural Resources have grown even through the harsh conditions of 2020. Purchasing our healing Pōhinahina skin salve supports our continued growth and allows us to share a small piece of our school with others."

"The teaching team really enjoyed working on this project," Matlin shared. "The whole thing would not have been possible without the support of Hawai'i Agriculture Foundation and American Savings Bank, who provided us with curriculum support and mentorship as well as the start-up funds."