



Pivot to Distance Education in Hawai'i 4-H

Adjusting Positive Youth Development Programming in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Situation

Access to educational youth programs, including Hawai'i 4-H, was greatly diminished when in-person meetings stopped due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Extension's Response

4-H Positive Youth Development agents in every county in Hawai'i worked together to adapt learning activities to a distance learning delivery system in order to stay connected to current 4-H club members and outreach to other youth throughout the state.

The activities were combined into a new webpage developed on the Hawai'i State 4-H website as the [Hale Learning](http://go.hawaii.edu/bPJ) site (<http://go.hawaii.edu/bPJ>).

Hybrid programs were adapted to deliver the same quality, with socialization and project introduction taking place through online learning platforms; project activities completed offline, with follow-up online.

Adapted projects also incorporated **experiential learning** (hands-on activities with reflection discussion); **essential elements** (instilling a sense of independence, belonging, generosity, and skill mastery), and **youth leadership** skill-building components of Positive Youth Development that are integrated into the in-person 4-H programs.

In addition to the educational programming, 4-H leaders and members tailored their annual club service projects to respond to the new needs of the community stemming from the pandemic.

Outputs

- Clubs in all counties sewed face masks and more than 2,000 delivered statewide.
- Hawai'i County 4-H assembled and donated more than 4,000 edible plant seed packets.
- O'ahu County distributed 1,101 kits for Paper Pot Gardening to youth organizations/groups.
- Kaua'i County painted and installed 25 Signs of Aloha around the island to support first responders.
- Military clubs sent 25 STEM kits to sites, and 45 youth on Kaua'i received at-home learning science kits.
- Kaua'i 4-H recorded members reading books and

Civic Engagement
Leadership, Community, and Arts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Garden Rocks ▪ Shaving Cream Art ▪ Make a Card

Agriculture
Plant & Animal Science
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Virtual Ag Tour - Oahu ▪ Gardening with Kids

Healthy Living
Well-Being, Fitness, Nutrition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Calm Jars ▪ Happy Hands ▪ Green Monster Smoothies ▪ Rainbow Fruit Smoothies ▪ Making Pot Cheese ▪ Make Butter in a Jar ▪ Make Tuna Salad in an Avocado

STEM
Science, Tech & Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FAT TOM ▪ 4-H STEM Lab ▪ All About Insects (CB) ▪ Kitchen Chemistry Fun ▪ Leaf Rubbing (CB) ▪ Shibori Dyeing

delivered 14 videos to hospitals and care homes.

Short-Term Impacts

- Hawai'i 4-H enrollment increased by 18% to 3,497.
- Special Interest (SPIN) club members increased by 35%.
- 112 youth gained knowledge in livestock genetics and oral reasoning through statewide online workshops.
- Page views for the Hale Learning site reached 761.
- Hawai'i 4-H YouTube views increased 272%, with 724 views of Hale Learning videos.

Medium-Term Impacts

- Volunteers, club members, and public engagement in virtual learning increased after 6 months to nearly 60% participation.

For more information, please contact:

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