

April 22, 2012

Aloha,

On behalf of Kanu o ka 'Aina New Century Public Charter School, I am honored to support the Sustainable Hawaii Youth Leadership Initiative (SHYLI). We are very pleased to be joining in a new partnership with SHYLI. As a Native Hawaiian Charter School, our project-based curriculum centers on stewardship of the unique environments and cultures of our island home. Our school community is very inspired to nominate our first youth leaders to the SHYLI Summit where they will collaborate with other students from island environments to create important projects aimed at sustainable living. SHYLI offers an ideal opportunity for our students to take a leadership role in promoting the values we practice on a daily basis.

At KANU we encourage our students to take direct ownership of their proposals for improving the community and we attempt to steer them toward productive, successful careers that contribute to the preservation of Hawaii's environments and people. I feel that SHYLI is ideally suited to inspire and support our students to pursue leadership and service in vitally important aspects of our island's sustainable future. Island communities have a unique perspective of the importance of becoming sustainable through collaborative management of our limited resources. I appreciate how SHYLI has identified the unique role students from islands can play in the development of environmental leadership.

I am impressed by the project themes and collaborative efforts of the youth, mentors and sponsors involved in SHYLI. It was especially inspiring to read about the youth delegate who spoke at APEC, as well as to see how students are supported to identify successful paths for their futures that promote sustainable living. Sustainable approaches to living and working

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in Hawai'i and the world are no longer optional; rather, they need to be urgently incorporated into our educational and business strategies.

I hope you will join me to support this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Betsy Boland

Betsy Boland
Senior Project and College Advisor
Kanu o ka 'Āina New Century Public Charter School

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