WFWP HI Joins the UluNiu Community Garden Project in Kapolei, HI

Donna Shaver
June 28,2025

On June 28,2025, members of Women's Federation for World Peace - Hawaii (WFWP-HI) joined the UluNiu Community Garden Project at the University of Hawaiʻi West Oʻahu campus. Representing WFWP-HI were Yoshie Yamada, Yuriko Harding, Marie-Francoise (Mimi) Mitchell, and Donna Shaver. From 8:00 a.m. to noon, they worked alongside 23 volunteers to tend to the Ulu (Breadfruit) and Niu (Coconut) trees, demonstrating the spirit of aloha and community service.

Organized around the vision that "niu is a relationship rooted in community and aloha ʻāina," the day began with a group prayer and an introduction to Hawaiian cultural traditions, focusing on the

significance of coconuts. Volunteers then split into groups to carry out gardening tasks, including weeding and tree maintenance.

By mid-morning, participants had built not only soil and sweat equity but also meaningful relationships through conversation and teamwork. The work concluded with a potluck lunch in the hale (gathering house), followed by a Hawaiian chant honoring the coconut.

The event closed with a heartfelt circle where each participant shared one takeaway from the day. A group rendition of the Mahalo chant and two collective claps signaled the end of the gathering.

Reflections from WFWP-HI

WFWP-HI Chairwoman Donna Shaver shared her appreciation for the opportunity to connect with the local community in a meaningful way.

"Participating in native Hawaiian community events allows us to engage with others and deepen relationships. I was happy to see Ula, a fellow volunteer from the recent 'Aha Hoʻoponopono gathering. It feels as though we're continuing that spiritual connection, which is very gratifying. I believe such engagement is strongly encouraged by Holy Mother Han." - Donna Shaver

The UluNiu Community Garden Project proved to be more than just a service opportunity - it was a living expression of cultural respect, shared purpose, and heartfelt gratitude.

UH WEST OAHU + KAULUNANI
COMMUNITY COCONUT PROJECT PRESENTS!

ULUNIU PROJECT
SPRING + SUMMER 2025
Every Fourth Saturday of the Month!

- January 25
- February 22
- March 22
- April 26
- May 24
- June 28
- July 26
- August 23

We envision niu as a relationship rooted in community + aloha 'āina.

8:00 am - 12:00 noon

HOW TO PREPARE:

- Bring filled water bottle (!)
- Wear a hat + covered shoes
- Please bring a pot-luck lunch item to share with others
- Come by 8:00 am - park in front parking lot that is open!

CONTACT US

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