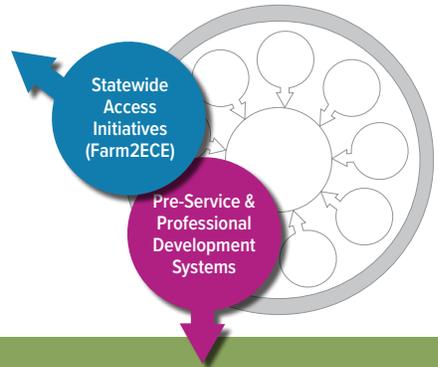


Early Childhood Outdoor Learning Environments Certification Program and Gardening with Young Children Certification Program



EARLY CHILDHOOD OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Purpose

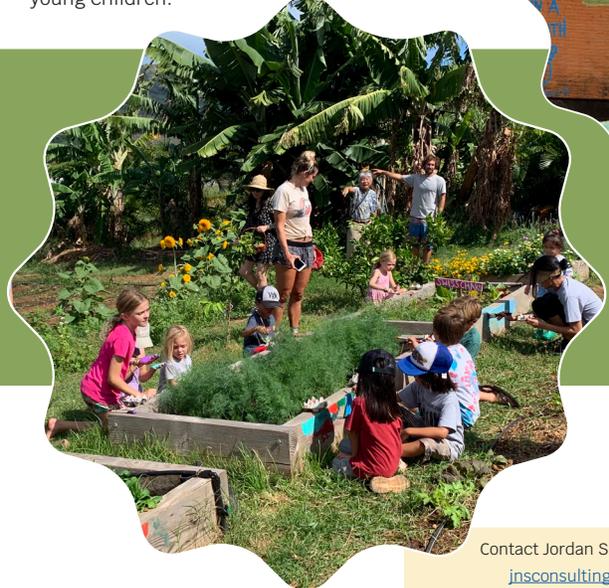
The purpose of this project is to provide access to a virtual, asynchronous distance learning opportunity to support outdoor learning environments and gardening with young children in ECE settings.

The Early Childhood Outdoor Learning Environments Certification Program is a 12 week self-paced, online program with modules that are intended to immerse the learner in thinking about the meaning of the environmental quality for young children and how to improve it in the outdoor settings of daily life. Modules include:

- Introduction to environment-behavior approaches to design
- Overview of the Preventing Obesity by Design (POD) model
- Implementation of best practice indicators in child care centers as shown in the NLI Outdoor Learning Environment Toolkit

The Gardening with Young Children Certification Program is a 5 week asynchronous distance learning course that aims to:

- Provide knowledge, tools, and resources for child care providers and associated ECE professionals to develop and program fruit and vegetable gardens for young children; and
- Support healthy, active lifestyles of young children and motivate learning in, about, and through nature.
- The Gardening Certification Program contains 8 modules focused on all aspects of growing, harvesting, eating fruits and vegetables with young children.



Goals

- Provide asynchronous continuing education distance learning opportunity that promotes outdoor learning and gardening to interested ECE providers and trainers statewide
- Recruit participants from islands and counties that haven't been directly engaged in other Healthy Kids, Healthy Future projects

Key Activities / Timeline

- **November 2022 - December 2022:** Recruit ECE providers and trainers to participate in the Early Childhood Outdoor Learning Environments Certification Program or Gardening with Young Children Certification Program
- **January 2023 - June 2023:** Providers participate in the self-paced course and receive technical assistance as requested

Desired Impacts

- Learners will gain skills and knowledge required to plan, promote, organize, administer, and assess high quality outdoor play and learning environments for young children
- Learners will gain knowledge, tools, and resources to develop and install fruit and vegetable gardens for young children as a vehicle for learning
- Strengthen connections between ECE providers in Hawai'i with a shared interest in outdoor learning and gardening

Project Highlights

Two pre-K teachers and two center directors from Maui and Hawai'i Island participated in the Early Childhood Outdoor Learning Environments Certification Program from January - April 2023. One pre-K teacher from Hawai'i Island participated in the second cohort from April - June 2023. Participants also received technical assistance from staff at the Natural Learning Initiative and had the opportunity to network with ECE providers nationwide.

3 pre-K teachers from Hawai'i and Maui Island, the Hawai'i Farm to ECE Coordinator, and PATCH training staff participated in the Gardening with Young Children Certification Program from March - April 2023.



Contact Jordan Smith to learn more.
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