

May 4, 2017

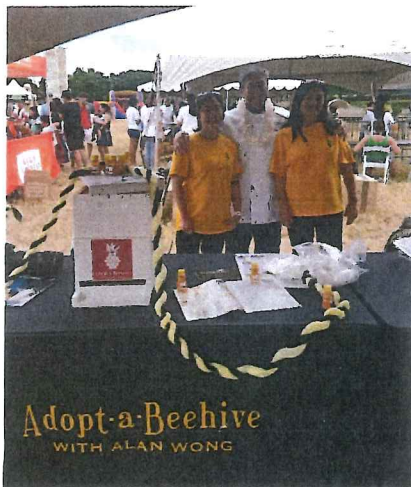
Dear Adopter,

When we started this program some six years ago, we set certain goals which included more public awareness of the importance of honey bees, teaching bees to the next generation of “beekeepers”, and providing resources for the beekeeping students at UH Hilo. I would like to share with you as the season comes to an end some of the activities that the program did to support and strengthen these goals.



We showcased the program at several public events to promote public awareness: On September 9, 2016, the program had a booth at the Taste of the Range in Waikoloa, Hawaii. The program’s exhibit provided honey comb samples to guests and educated the public on the relationship between honey bees and the pollination of kiawe (algoroba) pods for cattle feed in the days before modern air transportation.

On October 29, 2016, the program traveled to Oahu to the Keiki in the Kitchen event at Ko Olina as part of the Hawaii Food and Wine Festival. The event promoted healthy living choices and the program



gave out honey samples and educated children and adult visitors on the multitude of good local agricultural crops that are pollinated by honey bees. Visiting the booth was Mike Crowell from Wailea Agricultural Group who is one of our farmer partners. We have had bees on his farm for four years now and he is the first to sing the praises of the bees are excellent pollinators.





On April 13, 2017 the program was part of a larger Agriculture Day at the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management breezeway on the UH Hilo campus. Students, staff, and faculty sampled “finger licking good” honey and other honey related products and learned about honey bees on the UH Hilo farm.



During the season the program had many school groups at the UH Hilo to see the bees. The ages of the students ranged from college students from Tokyo Kasai University in Tokyo Japan to Moanalua Middle School students from Oahu, fifth graders (who brought their own besuits) from Hawaii Preparatory Academy in Kamuela, Hawaii to Haaheo Elementary School students. These students were given a tour of the bee friendly garden that used good bee practices such as no pesticides, a variety of bee friendly plants and a good water source. Additionally the students saw n



active bee hive in a structure large enough to hold an entire hive and got to see the newest addition to the bee area, a giant replica model of a Langstroth hive that they could enter and feel like a bee.





Thanks to the support that you provide through the program to the UH Hilo's beekeeping courses, the interest and popularity in bees and beekeeping has been steadily increasing. As a result, there is now a beekeeping certificate that is offered at UH Hilo. This fall, four students received beekeeping certificates: Mike Dowsett, Zachary Solarte, Britni Schock and Brandon Carvalho.

Adopter Karen Hofstad was visiting from Alaska and presented the students with their certificates on behalf of all the adopters.



In the Spring, four more students received beekeeping certificates: Joshua Boranian, Wes Piena, Natasha Kahana and Nathan Pallett who was present at the spring adopter event and received his certificate from Chef Alan Wong and Chancellor Don Straney. Hopefully some of these names are ringing a bell as they tended adopter hives over the last few years.

The program was blessed with a special gift from Vincent and Alison Shigekuni who created an Endowment in the name of Alison's parents, Ben and Fusae Fujise for \$25,000 to provide additional financial support to beekeeping students at UH Hilo. They visited the farm on November 25, 2016 and planted an Ohi'a tree in celebration of the Endowment. I am happy to report that the tree is still alive (my green thumb is not so green...).



The program had two special adopter events, one at Alan Wong's on Oahu on November 13, 2016 and on March 25, 2017. The fall event was held on Oahu in a dining area behind the Pineapple Room Restaurant in the Ala Moana Center and featured a series of very unique and creative dishes developed and prepared by Chef Alan Wong using a variety of products harvested from the UH Hilo hives. The dishes were created exclusively for the event and included a cheese crepe with truffle honey and propolis sprinkles and a rye berry and black rice salad with a honey vinegar (pictured).



The spring event that was held at the UH Hilo farm, the adopters got to meet their student beekeeper (or at least most of them were in attendance), see live honey bees in an observation hive and toured by van the bee garden, park and hives. At the spring event, Chef Alan Wong and Chancellor Don Straney presented the scholarship recipients, Kodie Solis-Kalani, Kawaipuokalani Genovia, and Linsey Stevens with a check for \$1,000 each.



showcased UH Hilo farm raised (by Dr. Armando Garcia) tilapia with a lime- UH Hilo honey dressing.

On the last day of school, the program was at the Sodexo dining room on a Wednesday called "Local First". Sodexo sources over 80% of their products locally for this day and on May 3, 2017, manager Bridget Awong





This summer, the program will again represent the UH system at an event in Washington D.C. called Hawaii on the Hill sponsored by Senator Mazie Hirono. She provides this opportunity to showcase Hawaii to her constituents. The program will be partnering with Kapiolani Community College' culinary program to utilize their creativity to make a unique UH Hilo honey based product to showcase at this event.

As the season comes to a close, I want to thank you for your support without which this program could not have done all the good that it does for the bees and for the students that will care for the bees. You are the reason we are able to do what we do and we hope that we have kept you connected to the program and properly shown our appreciation. We hope that we will continue to support us in the upcoming season (a new season form will be sent during the summer) that begins in September 2017.

I invite you to come and visit us at the UH Hilo farm to see your hive if you are unable to make our spring event. We have had numerous adopters over the season and more recently the Higashis from Oahu, the Zimmermans from New York City, Bob Jones and Denby Fawcett (from Oahu) with AK Shingle in tow, and Karen Krasne from California have all stopped by for a visit.

This summer, we are working on expanding the bee park and redoing the planter boxes in the garden to make them even more attractive to bees. We will be patrolling our hives for the new invasion of the American Foulbrood that is just up the road from us in Volcano and are hoping for a big harvest of honey that we can begin to distribute to you in the fall.

Thank you for all your letters to the students and notes to me, it's the reinforcement that we need to know that we are on the right path and makes us very happy.....

So until next season here's wishing you all a great summer,