

**Weather**  
The Honolulu Advertiser

**Get current conditions and imagery**

TODAY HI U.S. LOWS POLLEN

83°F

WEATHER SPONSORED BY

**Pleasant Holidays**

*It's Not Just Our Name, It's Our Promise!*

www.pleasantholidays.com

HonoluluAdvertiser.com

**Local News**

Thursday, September 1, 2005

89°F

Mostly Sunny »

SPONSORED BY **Pleasant Holidays**



Subscribe to The Honolulu Advertiser using EZPay and receive \$10 in gas!

HOME LOCAL NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS ISLAND LIFE ENTERTAINMENT OPINION

News Classifieds Archives SPONSORED BY Hawaiian Telcom CLASSIFIEDS JOBS HOMES CARS MARKETPLACE

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY**

Posted on: Thursday, September 1, 2005

Printable version

E-mail this story

## Children learn to become stewards of Earth

By [Timothy Hurley](#)  
Advertiser Maui Bureau

MAKAWAO, Maui — The garden is the place to be at Montessori School of Maui. At least that's what the students overwhelmingly indicated in a recent survey.

"They just love this place," said Heather Peterson, the school's naturalist, standing amid the well-tended greenery at the center of campus. "Whenever they have some free time, they seem to end up here."

It's no wonder: The school takes seriously its mission to teach children to be responsible stewards of the Earth. Learning how to grow fruits, vegetables and other plants is fun and an integral part of the school's outdoor classroom.

"We develop the whole child," said Cynthia Winans-Burns, head of school. "If future generations are going to have the chance to live in harmony with the Earth, then it is our responsibility to provide the opportunity to learn about their natural environment."

MOMI, as it is called, has been at its Makawao campus since 1992. The private school offers programs for children as young as 18 months and through Grade 8. The 196-student population is at capacity, and the school is preparing to expand onto undeveloped neighboring land.

The Earth-based curriculum uses the whole campus as a classroom. The central area of the campus is a greenbelt that leads to the garden. Rock arches support wooden trellises that in turn enclose a rock 'auwai used to irrigate the vegetable, herb, flower and taro gardens.



The Montessori School of Maui garden is the favorite spot for many students. Montessori-trained naturalist Heather Peterson helps oversee the garden, where flowers and vegetables, including taro, are grown.

TIM HURLEY | The Honolulu Advertiser

- LOCAL NEWS
  - Education
  - Obituaries
  - Weather
  - Traffic hotspots
  - Town hall
  - Hali'a Hawai'i
  - Military news
  - Discussion boards
  - Live chats
- ARCHIVE
  - Back issues
- FEATURED NEWS
  - Nation/World news
  - Movie showtimes
  - TGIF calendar
  - Special projects
  - Obituaries
  - Columnists
  - Photo gallery
- CUSTOMER SERVICE
  - Help page
  - Contact us
  - Subscriber services
  - Reader services
  - Advertising services
  - About us
  - Site map
  - Corrections
  - Today's front page
- RESOURCES
  - Discussion board
  - Traffic hotspots
  - Phone directory
  - Hawaiian dictionary
  - E-mail news alerts
  - RSS news feeds
  - Wireless news
  - Newspaper in Education

An award-winning set of sustainability guidelines and curriculum — including lessons in mathematics, botany, art, reading and practical life skills — have been developed in partnership with professor Stephen Medor of the University of Hawai'i School of Architecture and Hawai'i Rebuild.

With Peterson, a Montessori-trained naturalist, and Tom Talbert, master gardener, on staff, all levels from toddler through the upper elementary student experience the "Living Classroom." Each classroom designs, plants and tends its own gardens. Children plant and tend a taro patch; lei are produced throughout the spring from flowers grown in the garden.

What are you most proud of? Being able to nurture the school's mission and build on it with partnerships in the community, said Winans-Burns.

Best-kept secret: The school is preparing to double its campus size, from 4 1/2 to 9 acres, and take in more enrollment. The school's waiting list is about as long as its 196-student enrollment.

Everybody at our school knows: C.I. "Bugs" Barton, the school's beloved maintenance caretaker.

Our biggest challenge: Maintaining the school's mission and character while undergoing expansion. That mission calls for educating "the human potential" and to prepare students for stewardship in the world.

What we need: Assistance to help accomplish the upcoming expansion.

Special events: The Maui Music Fest, the school's annual fundraiser, Nov. 20. The event will feature Willie Nelson and Friends, one of whom will be Jack Johnson.

Reach Timothy Hurley at [thurley@honoluluadvertiser.com](mailto:thurley@honoluluadvertiser.com).

- ADVERTISEMENT -



**End of Summer Sale!**

**Interisland Web Fares starting at \$55\*** USD  
Book by Sep 8

[BOOK NOW](#)

[HawaiianAirlines.com](http://HawaiianAirlines.com)

\* Taxes, fees & other restrictions apply. Click "Book Now" button for full details.

Where: 2933 Baldwin Ave., Makawao  
 Phone: (808) 573-0374  
 Head of School: Cynthia Winans-Burns, seven years  
 School nickname: MOMI  
 Web address: [momi.org](http://momi.org)  
 History: Opened in 1978 as Montessori Children's Home, serving eight preschool pupils in Ha'iku. Moved to its present site in 1994.  
 Enrollment: 196 students. The school is at capacity.  
 Computers: 25 in upper grades.

▲ Top

MINI SITE MAP

- LOCAL NEWS** : Education | Obituaries | Weather | Traffic hotspots | Town Hall | Military news | Discussion boards | Live chat | Columnists
- SPORTS** : Surf report | UH sports | High school sports | Recreation | Sports calendar | On the Air | Golf report | National sports
- ISLAND LIFE** : About Men/Women | Taste/Recipes | Faith calendar | Health/Fitness | Comics | TGIF calendar | Tube Notes
- ENTERTAINMENT** : TGIF weekend calendar | 4-week guide | Movie showtimes | Dining | Visitors | National arts & leisure
- BUSINESS** : Hawai'i stocks | Hawai'i mutual funds | Hawai'i mortgage rates | Island bank rates | Stock quotes | Moneywire | Coming events | Trade Winds | Local resources
- OPINION** : Letters to the Editor | Dick Adair's cartoons | Submit a letter | Submit a commentary
- HELP PAGE** : Contact us | Back issues | Newspaper subscriptions | How to advertise | Frequently asked questions | About us | Site map | Terms of service | Corrections
- CLASSIFIEDS** : Classified ads | Cars | Homes | Jobs | Marketplace | Shop | Coupons | Place an ad | Contact advertising



