The Ocean and Islands of Hawai'i
A Marine website for the elementary school children of Hawai'i

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Project Goal
*Aina Kai Keiki Style*
"A marine website created for kids"

This project started out as an idea for bringing the marine environment through oceanography studies to elementary schools students through technology. In the course of collecting data for the website, I learned many things and recalled many things forgotten from former classes taken at Leeward community college.

In May of 2005, I arranged to do a PowerPoint presentation with Dawn Ige, a 3rd grade teacher at Waimalu Elementary school. I also created a survey for the 3rd grade students and the teachers so I could get feed back on what they know and what they want to learn about the islands and the Pacific Ocean in Hawai'i. The surveys were a major source of information that helped me with the creation of the site.
Two weeks later, I joined the same third grade class on a field trip to Ala Moana near the Kewalo basin side. Near the wall were many areas in the upper littoral zones that gave a variety of species to look at with both soft bottom and rocky bottom substrates. The fauna available in the supra tidal area was also in abundance. In short, there were opportunities for upper elementary grades to return to this area and do an even more extensive research project than the 3rd graders did. The goal of the 3rd grade class was to become aware of their marine environment and tidal safety while learning new vocabulary that is exclusive to science. I feel that I contributed greatly to this area in my former presentation as the children were correctly identifying many species. This gave me more input for my site as well. However, this was so much information that it will take some additional time to add it to my website.

Over the course of the summer, I returned to Ala Moana and also ventured to Sand Island Beach Park and Maile Beach Park. At these sites I used 11 disposable waterproof cameras to take pictures of different juvenile species located in high tide to low tide. This was at the request of Waimalu Elementary 3rd grade teachers because they have trouble identifying the species as they differ from the adult images that appear in most books and on the internet. Unfortunately, I learned the expensive lesson that cheap underwater cameras are not reliable and ended up with about 200 unacceptable pictures that looked either very blurry or overexposed.

I decided to temporarily borrow pictures from the internet (Google Image search) for completion of my project, but plan to remove and replace them before my site is made public on a more permanent basis. I plan to contact Keoki Stender, a former MOP Student and excellent underwater photographer, for access to his pictures for this site. I
temporarily "borrowed" many from him without permission. During this contact, I hope to find that he has some juvenile species that he never posted.

Once I had all the information that I thought I need to get started, I sketched out a "map" of the site that I wanted to create. I am currently taking an ICS course that introduces web design, so I felt I would be in good hands. Unfortunately, I only learned HTML text in the first half of the fall semester, so I did not get very far until a friend of mine gave me *Dreamweaver* software. Learning this software has been another challenge that I did not anticipate and my ICS teacher did not know how to use it. Fortunately, Michael Lane, my former Oceanography teacher, was able to help me get the "kinks" out and then my ICS teacher, Blanca Polo, helped me get my site online through the UH Unix system. She and I are currently working out more kinks and I hope to have everything up and running with all the information on it for the spring MOP symposium.

Finally, the last project objective that I had was to contact the teacher in charge of the 3rd grade class that inspired the basis of this website. On Tuesday, November 27, I contacted Dawn Ige for a "preview" of the website. She said that she loved it and has many suggestions in which we will work over during the winter break. As with the rest of the "under construction" work, she will have a primary part as my mentor to add, delete, or change the site to be more suitable for elementary aged children.

Further plans for the site will be including the Waikiki Aquarium in the editing and maintenance process as they have a lot of information that is age appropriate for elementary age students.

My goal was to create a marine environment website for elementary school children. The goal of this project is to build a Hawai'i based marine environment website
to educate elementary school children grades 3-6 about their islands marine resources. The learning objectives involve grade appropriate teaching of science and web building, as well as learning about preservation and protection of the marine environment in Hawai‘i.

I believe that the goal of this project will increase awareness in our youth for the island's marine environment. This should build a strong foundation for securing the future of the marine environment. An indirect benefit of this project would be the possibility of making parents more environmentally conscious of marine issues because they tend to be involved in their children's studies at this age.

I know that the website is still "under construction", but I feel that it is a very good basis for the final goals that I proposed and given more time, with accomplish the goals and outcomes of this project. I am disappointed that I could not complete this project in its entirety before I graduated from LCC, but I feel that I have done a good job in creating the basis that will give way to further education of elementary school children in the marine sciences. In this way, I have completed my goal, even if indirectly by my involvement with Waimalu Elementary school.

The basis of the website is complete; therefore my MOP project is complete. However, this website, if properly implemented will never be complete as its design is to work with currents issues and facts concerning the Hawaiian Islands and the part they play in the Pacific Ocean. Since science is always changing and hypotheses are waiting to be disproved, the site will also need to change. I plan to make this a life long project and that will benefit and enhance my future teaching career and students.