

Submitted by: Martha D. McDaniel (Mrs.), AB Vassar 1960 in Conservation; MS University of Massachusetts 1964 in Wildlife Biology; Science Teacher at Hawaii School for Girls 1969 to present; Pilot Teacher in FAST program since 1970

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MOANALUA VALLEY - AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

The purpose of this project is the establishment of an interdisciplinary program for use at the secondary level of education in Moanalua Valley and the development of teaching materials for use in the program.

The environment affects us as individuals, interest groups, social and cultural entities, and, ultimately, as a species. The program being developed will be, in so far as is possible, one of environmental education in the broadest sense, melding personal, social, cultural, natural, economic and other components and their interactions. Moanalua Valley has unique documentation of the relation of the pre-contact Hawaiian to his environment and the position of man in the balanced ecology that obtained in Hawaii in pre-contact times. The rich resources of history centered in the Valley make it a natural site for the proposed activity.

According to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's Office of Environmental Education, environmental education is:

a new approach to teaching about man's relationship to his environment--how he affects and is affected by the world around him;

An integrated process dealing with man's natural and man-made surrounding;

experience-based learning, using the total human, natural, and physical resources of the school and surrounding community as an educational laboratory;

an interdisciplinary approach that relates all subjects to a whole-earth "oneness of purpose";

directed toward survival in an urban society;

life-centered and oriented toward community development;

an approach for developing self-reliance in responsible, motivated

members of society;

a rational process to improve the quality of life;

and geared toward developing behavior patterns that will endure throughout life.

the possible ways to use Moanalua Valley as an educational resource are limited only by the creative imaginations of those desiring to use it. The Valley lends itself readily to use by classes in the sciences, art, English, history, mathematics, physical education, music, language, as well as combinations of these. A class or combination of classes could use the Valley in any or all of these several fields.

Interfacing this program with the Department of Education, State of Hawaii, would be necessary in order to qualify the Valley for the National Environmental Study Area registry, leading to National Environmental Education Landmark status. The interdisciplinary program at the secondary level, emphasizing history among the social sciences and including also ecology, would be a nationwide first, according to the National Park Service.

Resources and people with expertise in areas for which students may find need are being identified. The purpose would be to know of their existence and be able to call on them should the need arise; though only as the need is identified by the students.

Meetings have been held during the spring and summer of 1973 with teachers from nearby and other interested schools with some interest and the freedom to make excursions easily with their students. These teachers have offered valuable inputs for initiating student planning activities for the development of Moanalua Valley as an environmental education site for student use. The Valley can be opened up to these student groups with the freedom to plan and develop (within the constraints of preservation of those aspects of the Valley that the Foundation defines as

crucial) the aspects of the Valley for educational purposes. Since the valley is large, both physically and conceptually, several areas can be identified for separate groups planning and development with coordination of the team efforts as an integral part of planning.

Several different kinds of learning media are being investigated for use in the Valley. These include use of map overlays (mapping such things as the stream, vegetation, history, feelings, temperatures, colors sounds, odors, human activity, moisture, etc.), strands walks, activity (Action) cards, photography (snapshots, movies, portable TV), and anything else that suits a teacher-guides student's fantasy.

Suggested Materials for a Teaching Packet

1. The Statement on the Historical Significance of Moanalua (its bibliography is substantial enough for most schools)
2. A map suitable for making multiple overlays
3. A set of Action Cards and instructions
4. A copy of "the strands walk" [available at the Foundation office]
5. A good, detailed, working map of the Valley
6. A list of knowledgeable people for lectures or field trips (call the Foundation office)