

POLLINATORS AT THE HONOLULU ZOO

Celebrating National Pollinator Week 2015



This Saturday June 20th, 2015, we held our first ever Pollinators of Hawaii at the Honolulu Zoo. The event involved CTAHR graduate students and volunteers, including collaborating high school teachers, as well as HDoA and DLNR representation.

Dr. Baird Flemming, the ZOO director helped us by providing access to the Hale 'Imi 'Ike classroom. This large indoor space was an ideal location for our displays and interactive activities

The event was by all accounts a great success. We estimated that we had approximately 500 visitors, about 300

THE "BEE KINGDOM" - A CARDBOARD CREATION DESIGNED WITH YOUNG CHILDREN IN MIND, WAS THE CENTER PIECE OF THE DISPLAYS AT THE ZOO CLASSROOM

children, and each family spent an average of 20- 25 min in the classroom. A few organized student groups visited the area, including girl scout troops, and summer school programs, but mostly the visitors were young children with their families.





We created an activity passport that helped guide the children to each of the activity tables:

Bee a beekeeper (dressing up like a beekeeper and opening a “picture hive”)

Bee clinic (learning about bee diseases)

Bee buddies (learning about other pollinators including a table with yellow face bees)

Arts and bugs table (arts and crafts including stamps and crayons to make a garden in the passport)

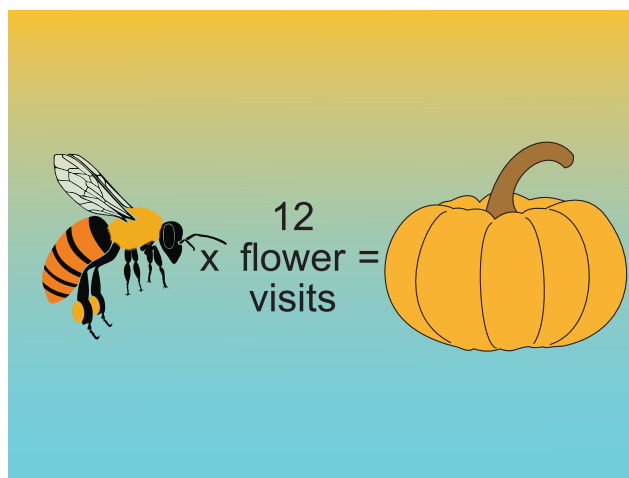
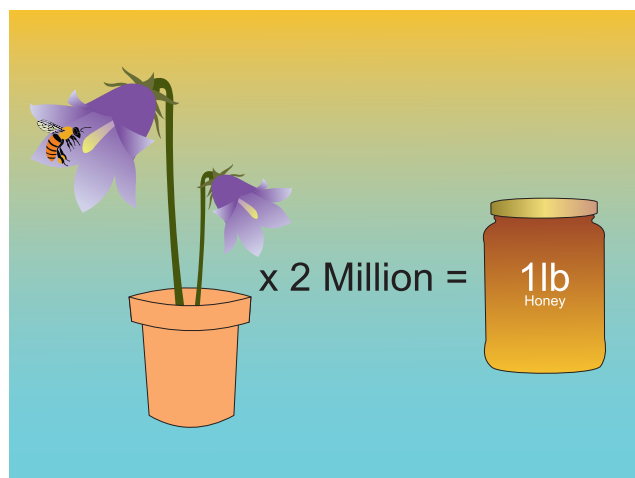
The honey pot (station where there was a honey extraction going on and people were offered honey in the comb to taste)

The Bee kingdom (the cardboard castle)

The Butterfly Central (where they could learn about butterflies and search for Kamehameha caterpillars on potted Mamaki plants.

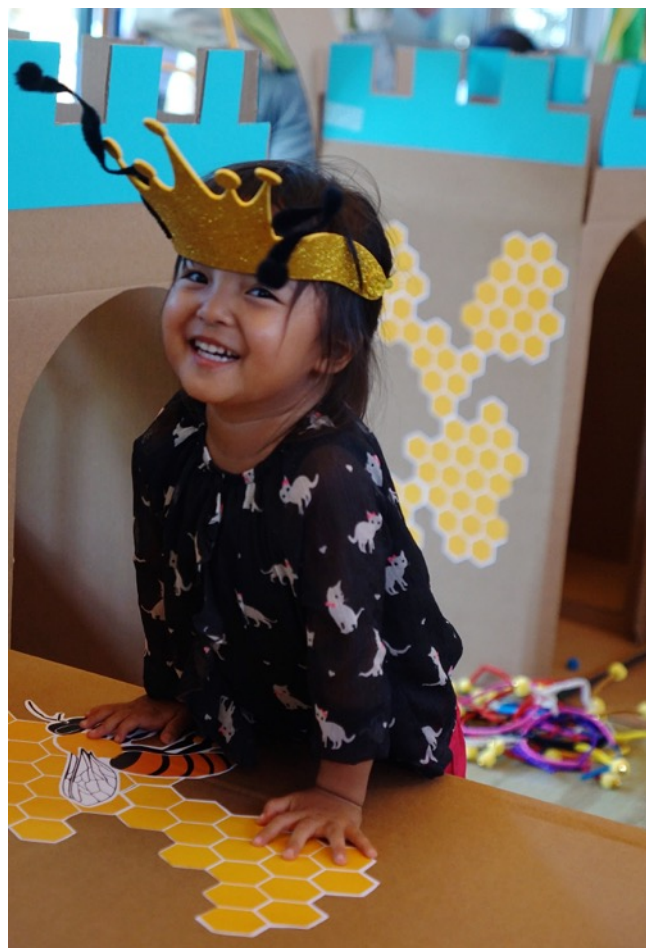
Chalk drawing on the sidewalk.

In addition to the activities the signed declaration of Pollinator Week was displayed and we had a number of



pollinator graphics displayed throughout the classroom.

The visit facilitated a casual discussion with the ZOO Director and his staff about creating a more permanent honeybee - pollinator interactive display at the Honolulu Zoo. We feel this would be a wonderful way to have more public exposure for the college and develop an important collaboration with an important conservation minded organization.



TWO LITTLE QUEEN BEES IN THE “BEE KINGDOM” - CHILDREN COULD DRESS UP, LEARN EARN ABOUT BEES., BRING “POMPOM POLLEN” FOR THE BABY BEES, AND THROW THE VARROA MITES OUT OF THE HIVE.



Flower pots with bee and butterfly facts added color to the activities.

Honeybee Project graduate student Jessika Santamaria encourages a young visitor to put pompom pollen in the bee cells.



Ka Mea Kolo volunteers, such as Sumiko Ogura, helped educate children about beekeeping



Ka Mea Kolo volunteer and CTAHR graduate student, Amber Tateno, and local teacher Gary Sugiyama, helped teach kids about Kamehameha butterflies (left). Jess Inskeep, CTAHR graduate student helps visitor learn about insects.





UH Honeybee Project and CTAHR graduate student, Scott Nikaido, and master gardener Laura Mizuno were in charge of the honey pot station. Kids and adults got a chance to taste honey and participate in manual honey extraction. This activity is among the most popular and it allow us to discuss the need for floral resources and pesticide input reduction.

KITV was there to film the event, as well as a photographer from the Honolulu Star Advertiser.



The observation hive, with live bees, was a great way to introduce children to this important insect.



Jason Wong, CTAHR graduate student and UH bee project member, instruct kids about bee diseases and pests



The educational and display materials were created by Jonathan Wright and Miranda Shelly (children illustrations).

