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DOW brings ‘Make a Splash’ cheer to fifth-grade students

LĪHU’E - The Department of Water (DOW) continued its educational outreach efforts for 5th grade students by providing a fun “Make a Splash” in-a-bag experience in lieu of its annual Make a Splash with Project WET festival this year.

DOW has held an annual Make a Splash with Project WET water education festival (MAS) for 5th grade level students from public and private schools for the past 16 years, but the event came to a halt last year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Although, that hasn’t stopped DOW from continuing their water education efforts around the island.

“It is our pleasure to serve students and teachers with water education resources that help bring awareness about conservation and sustainability in our communities.” said Joe Tait, DOW’s Manager and Chief Engineer.

In November, DOW reached out to teachers who previously participated in MAS, to seek their interest in receiving a “MAS in-a-bag” experience for their students. Due to limited supplies, bags were offered on a first to reply, first served basis. And after a few days, DOW received an overwhelming response from public and private elementary school teachers in Ele’ele, Kalāheo, Kōloa, Puhí, Anahola, Kapa’a, Kīlauea, Hanamā’ulu and Hanalei requesting the water education activities. The response resulted in the successful distribution of water education activities to more than 500 students. Each bag contained a student-led Project WET activity with instructions, a DOW pencil, a MAS event lanyard, hand sanitizer, a collapsible water bottle, a 5-minute shower timer and a Project WET activity book featuring a variety of water activities students can do at home or in the classroom.

“We hope to engage student interest in water education through this year’s MAS in-a-bag concept with student-led activities, conservation tools and supplies,” said Jonell Kaohelaulii, DOW’s Information & Education Specialist. “As we prepare for the new year, our educational outreach programs are also being refreshed for future participation at schools and within our communities.”

For more information on DOW’s conservation programs and educational classroom presentations featuring Project WET activities, please contact the Department of Water at 808-245-5461 or email: projectwethawaii@kauaiwater.org.

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Photo 1 (above): Students from Kapa’a Elementary School wave in appreciation of their “MAS in-a-bag” goody bags.

Photo 2 (left): Mrs. Theresa Malone’s 5th grade class at Kalāheo Elementary School excited to get started with their water activities.
Photo 3 (above): DOW provided 63 ‘Make a Splash’ activity bags for the 5th grade classes at Kōloa Elementary School.

Photo 4 (left): 5th grade students from Kawaikini Public Charter School proudly show their appreciation for their ‘Make a Splash’ bags from the Department of Water.
Photo 5: Ele’ele Elementary School Principal, Allison Carveiro (left) receives ‘Make a Splash’ water education bags for students from DOW’s Jonell Kaohelaulii, as part of the Department of Water’s outreach and education program.

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