We know that seeds traveled all the way to the Hawaiian Islands by WIND & WINGS (or birds). Sometimes, other animals also carried seeds. However, the third main method by which seeds arrived in Hawai‘i is WAVES, or traveling in or on the ocean. What types of seeds do you think would most likely travel in or on the ocean? Should the seed be big or small? Heavy or light? What do you think would help a seed to survive a long journey?

Draw or describe in words what you think an ocean traveling seed could look like here:

If we think back on Darwin’s idea of natural selection and living things fitting into their environments, it is easy for us to imagine the types of seeds that could travel by sea. It would be important that they were lightweight and buoyant—meaning easily able to float. Also, wouldn’t it be easier for plants that are already near the ocean to spread their seeds there? Probably. So many of the seeds that came by WAVES were light, able to float or buoyant, and came from plants that naturally grew near the ocean. On the back of this sheet, draw the environment you imagine a plant that arrived by WAVES would live in.