"We have not inherited the world from our forefathers - we have borrowed it from our children."
-Kashmiri saying

**WHAT IS EARTH DAY?**
Around the world people are trying to do things to help our beautiful ‘āina for Earth Day. Some will try it for the 1st time this week, & others will continue to do things they’ve been doing for years to save jungles, deserts, oceans and all the plants and animals that live in these natural places & more.

**WHO STARTED EARTH DAY?**
As Senator Nelson and other heroes have shown, one person can make a world of difference for our environment. Senator Nelson started Earth Day 35 years ago because people cared about the Earth, but no politicians were doing anything about it. Now, politicians have to talk to environmental activist groups all the time, and people’s concerns are always in the news.

**WHAT IS HIS MESSAGE?**
No modern society can sustain the way we all live today for very long because all are using their capital and counting it as profit. If a bank spent all its capital and counted it as profit it would go bankrupt. A nation is no different.

A nation’s capital is the air, water, soil, forests, minerals, rivers, lakes, oceans, scenic beauty, wildlife habitats and bio-diversity. Take this away and all that is left is a wasteland. As we pollute, erode and degrade our resources, we are spending capital. Obviously, this is not sustainable in the long term.

**SOME WORDS TO KNOW:**
- Biodiversity - variety of living things
- Capital - wealth
- Degrade - make weaker
- Erode - to wear down
- Refuge - a safe place to live
- Sustain & Sustainability - to keep things going

Science in Hawai‘i: Nā Hana Ma Ka Ahupua’a – A Culturally Responsive Curriculum Project
Adapted and retrieved 4/14/05 from: earthday.wilderness.org/history;
http://www.worldwildlife.org/earthday/
WHAT ARE STUDENTS DOING?

知名企业 for Wildlife Auburndale Elementary students in Wisconsin collected coins in classrooms for a nearby Wildlife Refuge and Education Center. They painted faces for Homecoming, sold candy & bird-feeders, had a garage sale & a carnival. On Earth Day, the students will present a $3,000 check to help the Wildlife Refuge.

Trees in Honor of Earth Danboro, PA students are planting 5 new trees

Spreading the Word Jackson, NJ students started an Eco-Action Club to beautify the courtyard at the school

Pledge to Mother Earth Warren, PA students write a letter to Mother Earth, pledging to do one special activity to help her … one year they went out and cleaned one block of their school's neighborhood.

Outdoor Classroom Truman Elementary students in Webb City, MO will work outside to build an outdoor classroom. Over the next couple of years, they will add prairie grass, a log cabin, walking trails, & shelter for animals.

Environmental Youth Congress A 16 yr. old named Rachel at St. Augustine High School is the Vice President of the Conservation Club. One of their projects this year was putting on an Environmental Youth Congress for youth to talk with leaders of the community about their concerns about Earth.

Creating Wildlife Habitats Lucy Holman School students in Jackson, NJ began an environmental project in the school's courtyard over 5 years ago. Now it has several habitat areas, including a Bird Sanctuary, a Hummingbird/ Butterfly Garden, A Woodland Area with a pond, and a Meadow.

Jump Start Recycling 9th graders started an aluminum can recycling program in their school which makes money for cool science projects.

WHAT’S HAPPENING WHERE I LIVE?

Keep Hawaii Beautiful Day – Saturday, April 30th 8am-2pm. Participate in Keep America Beautiful National Great American Cleanup. Contact your local office: Nani o Wai‘anae: 696-1920 or Statewide Coordinator Community Work Day Program: 877-2524

Kaua‘i and Maui Earth Days include music, dance, good food, artistic celebrations, educational and cultural events about Clean Energy, Renewable Technologies, Ecology, & Community Programs.

BUT WHAT CAN I DO?

Shop Smart! Ask what things are made of, where they come from & if they harm animals, land, air or water when you throw them away!

Save Energy! Walk or bike - don’t drive! Get your family to buy hybrid cars & use less electricity!

Recycle! Buy stuff that is recycled & re-use what you can so you buy less!

Speak Up! Tell adults you want them to clean up the mess they are leaving you. Write politicians & go to community demonstrations!
BONUS QUESTION for EARTH DAY

THE FOUNDER OF EARTH DAY says our government has not seriously talked about what sustainability is and why it is important. He says that is a failure of the presidents and congress in the past. He says this is what we must do now:

1. The President must begin a national "State of the Environment" address that should be added to the traditional State of the Union address he gives every other year.
2. The Congress must learn about the concept and significance of sustainability.
3. The public must encourage the president and congress to take the issue of sustainability seriously.
4. The youth of America must make it clear to the president and congress that sustainability is essential to the security of our nation.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? Who should do something about environmental problems? What should they do? How & when?

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BONUS READING for EARTH DAY

Buyer Beware ©2005 Copyright World Wildlife Fund

Coral
Ooh how beautiful! While rummaging through the souvenir shop for unusual and fun items you come across some of the most interesting jewelry. Wonderful carved necklaces, earrings and rings that look like nothing you've seen before. They are so colorful and smooth and intricately designed. Who wouldn't love one of these.

Might we suggest that you just walk on by. This jewelry may be beautiful and fairly inexpensive, but its beauty comes, in most cases, from the destruction of the world's threatened coral reefs.

Around the world coral reefs and the marine life that they support are being destroyed for food, aquariums, and decorative items like jewelry. Pollution and over-exploitation threaten these vital ecosystems. So help protect and maintain these areas by not purchasing products, like coral jewelry, that comes from the reefs.

The majority of coral in world trade is fished from tropical coral reefs in the Indo-Pacific and from Southeast Asian countries like Indonesia and the Philippines. Some of these reefs are protected, and the coral may have been mined illegally therefore making it illegal for you to bring back to the United States.