

Oct. 16 luncheon celebrates school gardens program on World Food Day

SPECIAL TO WEST HAWAII TODAY

The Kohala Center celebrates the 26th annual World Food Day with a benefit "Seeds of Hope" luncheon for the Hawaii Island School Garden Network from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 16 aboard the Golden Princess docked at Hilo Harbor. Reservations are required by Sept. 30.

Forty-nine schools on Hawaii Island have garden programs, which provide outdoor living laboratories for students to develop ecological literacy, provide hands-on learning experiences, develop healthy lifestyle choices and participate in environmental stewardship.

The garden program is a Kohala Center project and part of the center's food self-reliance initiative. The Hauoli Mau

Loa Foundation and the Ulupono Initiative are supporters of the Hawaii Island School Garden Network, along with the Hawaii Community Foundation's Youth Matters Network and many individuals who believe that communities need well-tended gardens.

The benefit includes a Hawaii Island School Garden Network program and a preview of Hawaii filmmaker Danny Miller's "Seeds of Hope" documentary, which was filmed for Hawaii Public Television and features teachers and students participating in Big Island school garden programs. Featured speakers Mayor Billy Kenoi and Sens. Russell Kokubun and Dwight Takamine will share their visions for a more sustainable and self-reliant food future for Hawaii.



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Students of Ke Kula o Ehunuikaimalino in Kealakekua work in the garden at their school.

Tickets are \$50. Reservations are required by Sept. 30. Contact Molly Hui at mhui@kohalacenter.org or 887-6411. For more

information, visit kohalacenter.org/seedhope/aboutseed.html.

World Food Day is a worldwide event designed to

increase awareness, understanding and informed, year-round action to alleviate hunger. To learn more, see worldfooddayusa.org.