



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

News Release

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

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**CLONED BREADFRUIT TREES THRIVE UNDER SUCCESSFUL
PROGRAM AT THE WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL
CENTER**

HONOLULU – Three and a half years ago the Department of Public Safety (PSD) Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) teamed up with the Garden Club of Honolulu and the Breadfruit Institute on an experiment to raise clone 'ulu trees, otherwise known as breadfruit. This project was to assist the Institute in their efforts to provide 'ulu to starving countries along the equator. Today, the trees are thriving under the care of the inmates at WCCC.

Dr. Diane Ragone, PhD., Director of the Breadfruit Institute, first introduced the women to the project in September of 2008. Today, she returned to WCCC to educate the newer inmates about the benefits of the breadfruit trees, confirm the power of nurturing and caring for living things, and the roll inmates play in the fight against hunger.

"The women involved with the project have been passionate and feel personal responsibility for its success," said Dr. Diane Ragone, PhD., Director of the Breadfruit Institute. "The mission was very clear to them and they understand that they could be a part of the solution to hunger in Hawaii".

The pilot project began in August 2009 with a Breadfruit Institute donation of 10 viable 'ulu tissue cultures to WCCC. This group project was implemented through the Garden Club of Honolulu where the women learned to plant, and most importantly, nurture these trees.

"Every 4 seconds someone dies from hunger," said Jean Abbott, a representative of the Garden Club of Honolulu. "More than 80% of the World's hungry live in tropical and sub-tropical regions like Hawaii. Facing soaring food, fuel and fertilizer costs, farmers in the tropics need sustainable, low-input, nutritious crops".

Warden Mark Patterson identified an area within the WCCC to plant all 10 trees.

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“The original 10 trees arrived measuring about 6-inches high, said WCCC Warden Mark Patterson. “Today, the trees are 7 feet tall and are beginning to bear their first fruit”.

The breadfruit trees grown by the inmates were featured as an educational exhibit at the 2009 Na Pua Al’I Flower Show at the Honolulu Academy of Arts. This exhibit received a national award from The Garden Club of America.

In addition, the culinary program at WCCC will be able to learn creative ways to prepare the fruit.

If you would like to learn more about the Breadfruit Institute’s program Dr. Ragone will also be holding a ‘Ulu workshop at the Bishop Museum on March 17th.

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