Virtual / Hybrid Project FAQs

- **How do the virtual projects work, in one sentence please?**

  The project consists of a digital workbook in which students follow along with The Digital Bus staff as they explore various topics through questions and answers, videos, web resources, research projects, and live video chats.

- **What does the hybrid version mean?**

  The hybrid version uses the same curriculum and workbook as the virtual project, but replaces the video chats with in-person visits to your classroom and adds a Digital Bus visit and a field trip to the project.

- **How much do the programs cost?**

  All projects are entirely free!

- **Who is allowed to participate?**

  The virtual projects can be used by any teacher and student regardless of which school (public, private and homeschool) they attend.

  The virtual projects with equipment lending are available to public schools in Maui Nui.

  Digital Bus video chats and in-person add-ons are available to public schools in Maui Nui.

- **What grade levels are the projects for?**

   The "Kilo" project is for K-2 students.

   The "Manō" and "Hawaii" projects are aimed towards students grades 3rd through 7th. Younger students may need more guidance, and some resource videos may be slightly above their levels. Older students are welcome to use the material to gain introduction level knowledge on the subjects

   The "Mālama" project is geared for students 6th through 8th.

- **What are the requirements for participating teachers?**

   If teachers decide to work on entirely on their own, there are no requirements. We ask only that you let us know how many students will participate and where you are located.

   If teachers decide to have The Digital Bus staff assist with the content through video chats, teachers are required to do the following:

   1. Schedule classroom video chats with Digital Bus staff
   2. Schedule optional in-person add-ons (if applicable)
   3. Complete end-of-project survey

- **How long does the virtual project take?**

   This depends on the project, how fast you decide to assign it to your students, and grade levels. Rough estimates are as follows:

   1. Hawai'i: A Natural History – 4 weeks to the entire year
   2. Manō: Sharks of Hawai'i – 4 weeks to the entire year
   3. Kilo: Let's Observe! – 1 to 2 weeks
   4. Mālama Honua: To Care for the Earth – 4 weeks to the entire year

- **Can I add the virtual workbook to my Google Classroom?**

     Yes. Click on the google drive link (on your project's dedicated web page) to access all the Google files. You will then be able to make copies for upload into your Google Classroom.

     PLEASE NOTE: **Most school emails that you may have used with other Google Classrooms, will NOT work with our classrooms due to privacy settings in your school's Google account. This is why we do not have a Digital Bus Google Classroom.**

- **Are there any in-class activities?**

     The "Hawai'i: A Natural History", "Manō: Sharks of Hawai'i", and "Mālama Honua: To Care for the Earth" projects are able to be used entirely virtually. Activities provided within the workbooks can be completed both in class and from home. There are multiple research projects within each project that could be completed in class. We encourage teachers to assign modules to groups of students to work together from their classrooms.

     The "Kilo: Let's Observe!" Projects must be done in class. We will lend you a box of equipment that accompany the virtual program.

- **Do I need to do the entire project with my students?**

     No, you are welcome to pick and chose modules that best suit your, and your students needs. Each module is saved as its own document to facilitate this option.

     For the 2023-2024 school year the "Hawaii: A Natural History" project will be available as separate modules both in digital and hard copy format.

- **How do the video chats with Digital Bus staff work?**

  Once you have decided to do a virtual project, contact the Digital Bus staff to set up an initial phone/video meeting. We will go over all of the following details with you:

  - How to schedule a meet-and-greet video chat with the Digital Bus staff and your classroom.
  - Upon completion of each project module you can schedule a virtual Q&A session with the Digital Bus staff. Students are expected to come prepared with questions from the module. We will review the material covered and engage in some discussions. No new content will be taught.
  - Upon completion of the entire project you can schedule a conclusion session with the Digital Bus staff.

- **Will any in-person sessions be available?**

  Yes. The hybrid version of the projects include in-person sessions.

  If your school allows for guest speakers, you'll have the option to schedule in-person Q&A sessions and one in-person conclusion.

  If your school allows field trips, you'll have the option to schedule a Digital Bus field trip that ties into the virtual project you are doing. (other conditions apply)

- **Do I need supplies for students to complete any of the activities?**

  Students will need access to a computer to access the digital copies of the workbook.

  The Digital Bus staff will assist with the delivery of the content, we will provide you with hardcopies of the workbook for each student, and any necessary equipment.

- **My school blocks all YouTube video content, is this a problem?**

  Not any more! All YouTube videos used in our virtual projects have been uploaded to ShafeShare.tv. This bypasses any YouTube restrictions, creating a safe, add-free videos for your students.

- **Will there be more topics in the future?**

  As now, there are no plans for more virtual/hybrid projects. But this may always change!

- **Do you have any virtual resources for older students?**

  Our virtual programs target a range of grades from Kindergarten to eithth grade. For Maui based virtual projects geared towards older students, please visit Maui Huliau Foundation's Aloha 'Āina Virtual Classroom.