



GEOSCIENTISTS-IN-THE-PARKS Internship Program

2019 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION FALL/WINTER SEASON

NPS UNIT: KALOKO-HONOKŌHAU NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK	PD #: 2019444
<p>Position Title: Biology Assistant (1) Position Type: Guest Scientist Primary natural resource discipline: Biological resources Project keywords: restoration, wetlands, invasive species, dryland forest Location: Kailua-Kona, Hawaii</p>	
PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS	
<p>Position Description: Kaloko-Honokōhau NHP is a 1200-acre national park unit located on the west coast of the island of Hawai'i. The Park was established in 1978 for the preservation, protection, and interpretation of traditional Hawaiian activities and culture. The Park contains spectacular cultural sites and history, Hawaiian fishponds, anchialine pools, native endangered waterbirds and other wildlife, coral reefs, and coastal dryland forest. 'Aimakapā Fishpond is a 30-acre Hawaiian fishpond/wetlands complex within Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park.</p> <p>The GIP–Joz Bybee Native Ecosystem Restoration Internship will assist with science and field monitoring activities associated with the Park's wetlands ecosystem restoration project at 'Aimakapā Fishpond and the restoration of coastal dryland forest. The GIP will regularly survey and record data on endangered Hawaiian waterbird and migratory bird species at 'Aimakapā Fishpond; monitor endangered Hawaiian waterbird nests for productivity and success by using both foot and kayak surveys; monitor storm surge levels at the fishpond beach berm, collect water quality samples for analyses; actively participate in the nonnative predator control program (mongoose) by opening and baiting traps, checking traps and removing animals, and closing traps, and monitor predators with tracking tunnels (setting, collecting, and "reading" cards); monitor established invasive plant plots for regrowth and assist with care of native outplants; and collect and download GPS data, and make simple GIS maps. The GIP will assist the Project Lead with organizing and running a monthly (weekend) community volunteer day. Dryland forest work includes monitoring health of native outplants and collecting seeds for seed bank or propagation. The intern will also perform office work, entering and managing survey data, mining the park's files for existing data on fishponds and other resources and provide an annotated bibliography and resource brief for fishpond resources. The incumbent will work with the park interpretation division to develop an interpretive product regarding an aspect of the restoration projects.</p> <p>The 'Aimakapā Fishpond/wetlands restoration project aims to restore native ecosystems and habitats, and ensure long-term preservation and maintenance. This project also aims to restore the fishpond's cultural landscape and cultural practices. The intern's work will help address an important resource management issue and contribute to the protection of this unique Hawaiian ecosystem from further depreciation and competition from nonnative plants and animals, preservation of the natural environment, and maintenance of the ecological balance of the area. Through assistance with science and field monitoring activities, the intern's work will contribute to these overall project goals and help further the NPS mission.</p>	

This position is offered through the National Park Service's Geoscientists-in-the-Parks (GIP) Internship Program in partnership with Stewards Individual Placement Program (Stewards) and The Geological Society of America (GSA).

Work Products: Work products are completed plant and wildlife survey data and predator control data, an annotated bibliography of fishpond resources, and assisting with development of an interpretive product, such as a Resource Brief, regarding an aspect of the restoration.

QUALIFICATIONS

A bachelor's degree and coursework in biology, ecology or other natural resource field of study is preferred; computer skills in Microsoft Office; ability to identify birds and plants to species; experience collecting data including data with GPS equipment; and experience presenting technical and non-technical educational information to the general public about ecosystem restoration and plants and animals invasive to Hawaii. The intern should be able to swim, be comfortable around water and experienced in using a kayak. Knowledge of Hawaiian culture is not required but is helpful.

The applicant must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent legal resident ("green-card-holder") between the ages of 18 and 35 years old. Prior to starting this position a government security background clearance will be required.

VEHICLE/DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Applicant must have a valid driver license and a good driving record. Park offices are not within the park boundary and intern will need to drive to and from the office and project work site.

A personal vehicle is REQUIRED for this position. Public transportation is not available in Kailua-Kona, HI. There is a need for a personal vehicle or other form of reliable transportation. The closest grocery stores to the Park are approximately four miles away and hospital and medical facilities are five to ten miles away.

If the GIP is required to drive a park vehicle for their position, Stewards will perform a driving records search, and the GIP's ability to drive a park vehicle during work hours will be contingent upon the results. GIPs will have to have had their license for 3 years or be over the age of 21 to be insured as drivers under Stewards insurance policy. Examples of things that will preclude a GIP from driving a park vehicle include: GIP under the age of 21 years old that has been licensed less than three years, DUIs, multiple moving vehicle violations, suspended or revoked license, or three or more accidents (regardless of fault) in the last 3 years. If the driver's search is favorable, Stewards will provide driver's liability insurance while the intern is driving a NPS vehicle for their GIP position. If the GIP is denied coverage by Stewards, they will not be permitted to drive during work hours.

HOUSING

Park housing is NOT available and the intern will be responsible for finding housing in the nearby area. Open market rental studios and rooms in shared houses cost approximately \$800 - \$1500/month. Craigslist and West Hawaii Today classifieds are the best sources for locating housing.

INTERNSHIP START/END DATES

Start Date: 9/9/2019

Number of weeks: 12 weeks

Flexibility of dates: Yes

LIVING ALLOWANCE

12 weeks (\$525/week = \$6,300)

RELOCATION ALLOWANCE

\$1,000 (AK and HI)

AMERICORPS PROGRAM



AmeriCorps is a program that engages individuals in intensive community service work with the goal of “helping others and meeting critical needs in the community”. The GIP Program is supported through AmeriCorps by providing a Segal Education Award in addition to the GIP’s living stipend and relocation allowance.

Upon successful completion of the GIP position, the GIPs (AmeriCorps members) are eligible for a \$1,612 - \$6,095 pre-tax education award that can be used for paying back student loans or for continuing their education. The amount of the education award is based on the length of the position.

AmeriCorps limits the number of terms an individual can serve to 4 terms. If an applicant has previously completed 4 GIP or other AmeriCorps positions, they will not be eligible to apply for an additional GIP position.

NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT

Natural Environment: The Park is located in Kailua-Kona on the island of Hawaii, approximately three miles from the Kona International Airport and five miles northwest of Kailua-Kona. The Park is at sea level and averages less than 25 inches of rainfall annually. It includes three beaches and extensive archeological ruins. Complete shopping facilities and rental units are available in Kailua-Kona. This is a high cost of living area. Hospital and medical facilities are five to ten miles away. Public schools are conveniently located within this surrounding area and distant bus service is provided for students. No public transportation is available. For more information, visit the park website at www.nps.gov/kaho.

Special consideration: During volcanic eruptions at Kilauea Volcano, the island of Hawaii is subject to high concentrations of volcanic fumes (VOG), especially sulfur dioxide gasses and fine particulates. The fumes are known to be hazardous to an unborn fetus, and persons with heart and respiratory problems. The Kona coast experiences VOG conditions during eruption events. Long-term effects on normal healthy persons is unknown.

Physical Work Environment: This position includes office work, and field work involving carrying equipment and packs up to 50 pounds, hiking over rugged terrain in hot, humid, sunny climate, working in wetlands and water in waders or boots up to 8 hours, exposure to wild animals and operating 4wd UTV vehicles and small boats (e.g. kayak, skiff with trolling motor, Hawaiian canoe).

MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS

Mentoring: The intern will be mentored by a Park biologist and the restoration project lead. They will be exposed to various field monitoring methods and have the opportunity to learn about resource management practices utilized in a rich cultural landscape. They will also have the opportunity, when possible, to work with and learn from researchers and other land managers working in West Hawaii.

Learning Goals: The intern will have the opportunity to learn and utilize various biological field monitoring techniques. They will also develop interpretative skills to interact and communicate technical and non-technical information to Park visitors and community members.

SUPERVISORS

Primary Supervisor:

Jackson Letchworth
Biologist
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Secondary Supervisor:

Sallie Beavers
Chief of Integrated Resources
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