

# Hōkūlani Insider

Quarterly eNewsletter for Project Hōkūlani

## E KOMO MAI!

*Dr. Hye-Jin Park Welcome Message*



Welcome to the Summer 2023 newsletter. We are excited to share new additions to the Hōkūlani 'Ohana and other creative ways to share STEM and science education throughout the State of Hawai'i. Project highlights include:

- ▶ **Academic Enrichment in Science**  
*Year in Review*
- ▶ **College Transition Support**  
*Ho'okua'āina - Ahupua'a Systems Apprenticeship; Graduation Spotlight*
- ▶ **Mentoring**  
*New O'ahu Sites*
- ▶ **'Ohana Gatherings**  
*July Ho'ike event*
- ▶ **STEM Internships**  
*Summer Activities*

### Project Hōkūlani

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## IN THIS ISSUE



# ▶▶▶ 'Ohana Gathering Update: July 2023

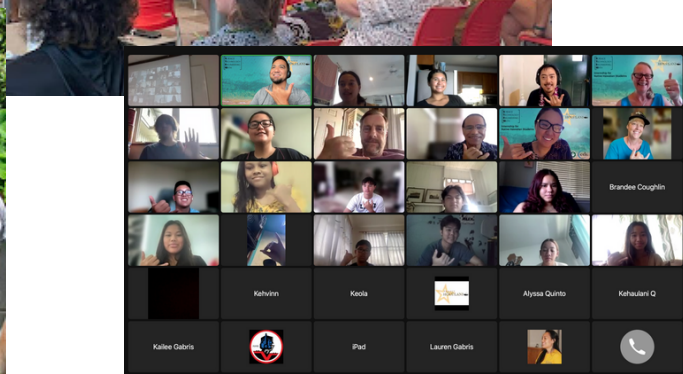


**O'ahu Hō'ike 2023**



'Ohana joined interns, mentors and project staff at all Hō'ike on July 22nd, 27th and 29th! Sessions were virtual and/or in person on O'ahu, Big Island and Lāna'i, with those who attended in person enjoying lei, ono grinds, and – for all student participants – certificates of completion. We thank all the parents who encouraged their teens to participate, and supported them throughout the project year. We congratulate you all and offer these photos of our fond memories.

**Big Island Hō'ike 2023**



**Virtual Hō'ike 2023**



What could be a better next step for Project Hōkūlani scholars than a two-year internship with Ho'okua'āina? This Ahupua'a Systems Apprenticeship will accept applications in April 2024 at this link:

<https://hookuaaina.org/asa/>

Read more on their website or below, or watch their video on Youtube:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_m-ORrnHOfQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_m-ORrnHOfQ)



Ho'okua'āina is partnering with Paepae o He'eia, Kāko'o 'Ōiwi, Papahana Kuaola, and Windward Community College to offer a unique program for students interested in 'āina based work, gaining hands-on experience, carrying on cultural practices and traditions, and creating sustainable ahupua'a systems once again in Hawai'i. In addition to learning the skills and ethics of cultivating kalo and other foods in the lo'i at Kapalai, participants will spend the summer immersed in the stewardship of various wahi pana in the Ko'olaupoko region such as loko i'a, lo'i kalo, stream restoration, forest management, while being supported to begin their college career. Upon completion of summer requirements, students will be invited to join the 2-year college degree and certification program.

To be eligible students:

- Must be hardworking & motivated to go to college to pursue any career of interest
- A resident of Windward/Ko'olaupoko region between the ages of 17-24
- Demonstrate financial need
- Enroll as a full-time student at Windward Community College

Apply to: <https://hookuaaina.org/find-a-program/internship-program/> and/or <https://hookuaaina.org/asa/>

When the apprenticeship requirements are met, students will receive a \$1500 stipend per session, tuition for college, and entry into the 2-year apprenticeship at Ho'okua'āina while pursuing their degree and certificate at WCC. What a great opportunity!



We are delighted to welcome two new internship sites to Project Hōkūlani for our interns in the coming year! Much aloha and māhala to you for joining us and sharing your mānao!

## MENTORING AT NEW SITES



**The Mālama Loko Ea Foundation** stewards a traditional Hawaiian fishpond located in the moku of Waialua and the ahupua'a of Kawailoa. This fishpond is a loko pu'uone – a sand dune fishpond – located behind Māeaea beach, commonly known as Hale'iwa Beach park. Since 2009 community members have worked to restore this loko i'a and connect the two waters of Loko Ea and another fishpond, Uko'a. Interns will delve into water quality monitoring, phytoplankton cultivation, fish identification, data collection, traditional indigenous aquaculture, agriculture, and much mālama 'āina. These activities are great STEM preparation for interns curious about biology, environmental studies and conservation, botany, zoology, and aquaculture

**MEET THE MENTOR! Savili Kamuela Bartley Jr.** grew up on the leeward side of O'ahu and graduated from Kamehameha Kapālama. He has a bachelor's degree in biology, and a keen interest in environmental conservation. Savili has been working with Mālama Loko Ea Foundation for 3 years and he currently lives on site at the fishpond. He is an educator, native i'a technician, kia'i loko technician, and has also has taught AQUA 201 and BIOL 101 courses to Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau and Ka 'Umeke high school. Welcome Savili!

**Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB)** includes the The Johansen Fish Resilience Lab and He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve located on Coconut Island in Kāne'ohe Bay. Research focuses at the lab have two main goals: first, to find out what happens to coral reef fish when they experience increasing environmental stress from climate change and pollution; second, to determine the exact conditions reef fish can tolerate while still performing the crucial roles which benefit humans. The work done by interns at the lab will help preserve, restore, and sustain coral reef ecosystems despite growing environmental conditions, and prepare them for further study in the STEM fields of marine biology, biocultural restoration, environmental studies, and ecology.



**MEET THE MENTOR! 'A'ali'i Kelling** was born and raised within the ahupua'a of He'eia, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu. He is an alumnus of Ke Kula o Samuel Manaiakalani Kamakau LPCS. He has a bachelor's degree in Marine Science and is currently pursuing a degree in Marine Biology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. His current research is focused on habitat augmentation as it relates to Native Hawaiians modified landscapes with the goal of increasing fish population size and potentially returning native species that once thrived in these waters. Welcome 'A'ali'i!



Academic Enrichment in Science



What a great year! It was gratifying to see how our interns applied various skills, knowledge and mindsets – gained in hands-on science lessons in the fall and spring semesters – to the work they accomplished in their internships. Here is a look back at those classes and the successful, real-world, firsthand experiences Hōkūlani interns experienced with STEM mentors from organizations like North Shore Community Land Trust, Venture Physical Therapy, Hui Ho’oleimaluō, Mauna Kea Forest Reforestation Project and much more.



★ Hands-on astronomy at the Four Seasons Observatory on Lānaʻi (Spencer Chew is pictured)

★ Hands-on health at Venture Physiotherapy on Lānaʻi (photo of Jake Ropa and mentor Dan Yang)



★ Hands-on soil science at Nā Waʻa Mauō (Uakea Kealoha, Laʻakea Kaneva, Nahiku Anderson, Aubrey Kajikawa, Taliya Nishida, and Mentor Hoku Pihina)

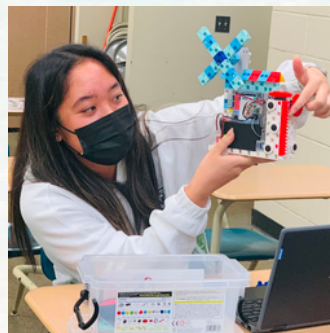


★ Hands-on Sustainability with Chaminade’s Natural Science Department Lab (photo of Starlen Wong)

★ Hands-on Media Studies at OceanIT on Oʻahu (photo of Alyssa Quinto)



★ Hands-on Computer Science with UH Laboratory of Applications in Informatics and Analytics on Oʻahu (photo of Julius McClain, Ryan Nakayama, and Tyler Takahashi)

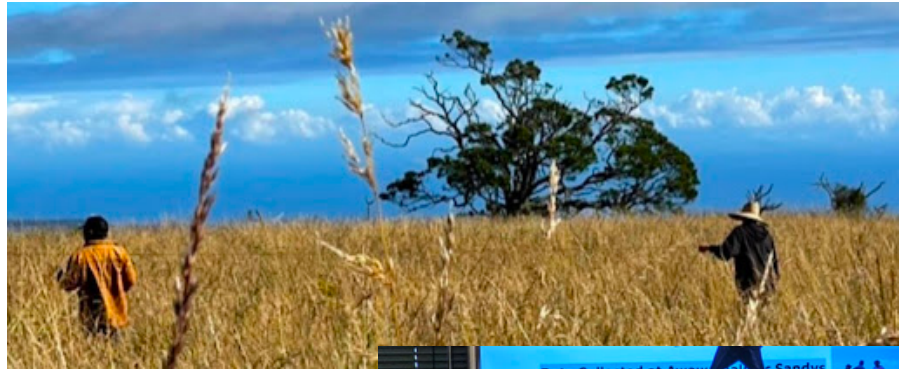


★ Hōkūlani is still recruiting on Lānaʻi, Maui and Molokai! Let your friends and family know that we have extended our student application deadline to August 25th!



# Summer STEM Internships 2023

Hōkūlani interns at all sites honed a host of important skills this summer! Here's a sample of some of the activities they engaged in!



- ★ Public speaking about limu research to a community group on Lāna'i (Micah Kahihikolo is pictured)
- ★ Conservation and collaboration at Hui O Ho'ohonua on O'ahu (Claire Hutchison is pictured)
- ★ Forest preservation at Mauna Kea, mapping and surveying by drone at Hui Ho'oleimaluō, and water sampling with Nā Wa'a Mauō on the Big Island



Reflection: Tatum Okamoto, one of our academic mentors last year, returned this summer to assist with students' internships at Hilo. She shared her experiences and reflection in this video:

<https://go.hawaii.edu/yfK>





# Graduation Spotlight

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*Where do Hōkūlani interns go after they graduate from high school? Here's where just a few of our scholars are headed soon!*



Rovi Afaga will attend Santa Clara University, California and major in Business Information Systems. Rovi says, "My dream career is to be a Web Developer or a Data Analyst."



Jiaying Cao will be attending Pomona College in Claremont, California this upcoming fall and says, "Currently, I am planning on majoring in media studies. Thank you!"

Hōkū Kam-Castro will attend Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska in the fall to major in Business on the pre-med track with the goal of obtaining an MD degree. Hoku says, "I hope to own my own medical practice one day. Thank you Project Hōkūlani for the great experience and opportunity!"

