



Winter 2023

Hōlanikū (Kure Atoll) Volunteer Opportunity

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument



Habitat Restoration Volunteers Wanted

The State of Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is seeking Habitat Restoration Volunteers for work at Kure Atoll Wildlife Sanctuary in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Although the program objectives are diverse, the majority of time is dedicated to invasive plant removal.

Requirements

- ✓ Strong interpersonal skills
- ✓ Excellent physical and mental health
- ✓ Able to walk 10 miles per day
- ✓ Data collection and management skills
- ✓ Must be vaccinated for Covid 19 and have had a recent booster (Requirement for transportation on NOAA vessels).

Duration

October 18, 2023 through
March 2024 (Approx.)

Deadline

Applications reviewed upon
receipt until positions are filled

To Apply: Send resume, cover letter, and three references to kureatoll@gmail.com.
For more information see KureAtollConservancy.org



Winter 2023

Hōlanikū (Kure Atoll) Volunteer Opportunity

Location: Hōlanikū (KureAtoll), Papahānaumokuākea

Duration: 6-8 months (Approximately October 18, 2023 through March 2024)

Application deadline: Applications reviewed upon receipt until positions are filled

Inquiries: Email Cynthia Vanderlip & Michelle Smith at: kureatoll@gmail.com

To apply: Send resume, cover letter, and three references to: kureatoll@gmail.com

Description: The State of Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is seeking Habitat Restoration Volunteers for work at Kure Atoll Wildlife Sanctuary in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Hōlanikū is a part of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and is located 1,400 miles northwest of O'ahu. Hōlanikū provides important habitat for wildlife, including the endangered Laysan duck (*Anas laysanensis*) and 'Ilioholoikauaua (Hawaiian monk seal). Eighteen species of seabirds nest on Hōlanikū (Kure Atoll) including Ka'upu, (black footed albatross) and 'Ao'ū, (Christmas shearwater).

DLNR is committed to eradicating non-native and invasive plant species such as Golden crown-beard (*Verbesina encelioides*) from the atoll. Invasive plants are a significant management concern because they displace native plants, which are necessary for wildlife habitat and to promote dune stability. This position is a rare opportunity to protect and recover a unique ecosystem while living in a remote wildlife sanctuary!

Hōlanikū is an extremely remote work location and transportation to the atoll is limited and infrequent. Deployment to any remote field station is a serious undertaking. Delays in travel dates due to weather or ship mechanical issues may occur. Due to Hōlanikū being a remote location and difficult access response times for emergencies, including evacuation, may be uncertain. The ability to live and work in close quarters with a small group of people for an extended period of time is of the utmost importance. Field teams typically consist of 6 to 8 personnel. There are only 2-3 field seasons per year (approximately 3-8 months each). There is no Internet or cell phone service available. Contact with friends/family is limited to text only email (no pictures or attachments) through the field station's satellite phone and Garmin Inreach devices.

Volunteers will be trained to conduct: Invasive plant removal (manual and chemical), invasive species monitoring, plant identification, wildlife monitoring and species identification, native plant propagation and distribution, safe animal handling, and beach cleanups to remove wildlife entanglement and ingestion hazards.



Winter 2023

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(Continued)

Although the program objectives are diverse, the majority of time is dedicated to invasive plant removal.

Volunteers will acquire skills in: wildlife monitoring, data collection and entry, Excel and GPS equipment, binocular/spotting scope use. Hawaiian cultural activities are incorporated into the program.

Requirements:

- Strong interpersonal skills,
- Excellent physical and mental health,
- Able to walk 10 miles per day with a 40 lb. pack over soft sand and uneven terrain,
- Able to lift and carry 50 lbs.,
- Data collection and management skills,
- Able to work in uncomfortable and/or unpredictable weather,
- Bend or stoop for short periods of time, ability to swim, 20/20 color vision or correctable lenses.
- Must be able to obtain medical clearance for embarking/working on research vessels.
- Must be comfortable with use of pesticides.
- See full list of physical requirements below.

Strict Biosecurity: Biosecurity protocols are in place to prevent further introduction of alien species. This quarantine requires that all “soft” items (clothing, shoes, straps, etc.) must be purchased as new and frozen for 48 hours prior to departure to Hōlanikū. All “hard” items (cameras, electronics, musical instruments, etc.) must be inspected thoroughly and may need to be frozen or fumigated prior to departure.

<http://kureatollconservancy.org/our-work/>

Volunteers can expect to work 40 hours per week. Work hours are project dependent and may include early mornings, evenings, and weekends. Additionally, volunteers will assist with camp upkeep and chores outside of regular work hours. Travel dates are tentative and subject to change. DLNR/ DOFAW will provide transportation between Honolulu and Hōlanikū. Lodging and food while on Hōlanikū and in transit between Honolulu and Hōlanikū are provided. Most clothing and work-related gear is provided.



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(Continued)

Examples of tasks and physical requirements for the position are listed below. Weather conditions may be sunny, hot, cold, windy, and/or rainy.

Task	Physical Description	Weight (lbs.)	Repetition	Distance	Duration	Physical Conditions
lift/carry supplies and drinking water	lift/carry/transfer to boat and/or wheelbarrow	20-50 lbs.	as needed	carry up to 100' and haul up to 700', as needed	4+ hours several times per season	uneven surface, soft sand, hills, wave action
push/pull wheelbarrow	push/pull supplies	100+ lbs.	as needed	up to 700' feet, as needed	6+ hours several times per season	uneven surface, soft sand, hard substrate, hills
spray backpack for herbicide application	lift/carry pack, squeeze spray trigger, pump handle	20-40 lbs.	5 days per week	4+ miles	4-8 hours/day, as needed	uneven surface, soft sand, hard substrate, hills, repetitive motion
remove wildlife entanglement hazards from beaches	lift/haul/carry/drag, hand tools used to cut up large pieces	carry 50 lbs. drag 150 lbs.	as needed	10'-300'	8+ hours several times per season, as needed	uneven surface, soft sand, hills, wave action
boating	stand, sit, swim, load supplies		a few times per season	as needed	1-6 hours, during offloads and surveys	bouncing, jarring, jolting, sun/wind/cold
seabird monitoring	squeeze hand tally counters, marking wand triggers	pack weight 10+ lbs., weight of necessary supplies	800+ times per day	4+ miles	8+ hours for 5-7 days per season	uneven surface, soft sand, hills, repetitive motion

For more information visit

Kure Atoll Conservancy website:
<http://www.kureatollconservancy.org/>
 Kure Atoll Blog:
<http://kureatollconservancy.org/blog/>

Kure Atoll Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/kureatollconservancy>
 Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument:
<http://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov/visit/kure.html>