

Job Type: Habitat Restoration Worker – Volunteer Positions

Location: Kure Atoll Wildlife Sanctuary, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI)

Duration: 7 months (Approximately March 2017 to October 2017)

Position Closing Date: Applications reviewed upon receipt until positions are filled

Inquiries: Email Matt Saunter or Naomi Worcester at kureatoll@gmail.com



Description: The State of Hawai'i's Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is seeking volunteers for work at Kure Atoll Wildlife Sanctuary in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Kure Atoll is a part of the **Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM)**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, and is located **1,400 miles northwest of O'ahu**. Kure Atoll occupies a unique position referred to as the **"Darwin Point"**, which is the northern extent of coral reef development and the atoll is estimated to be **29.8 million years old**. Kure is an important breeding site for wildlife, including several rare and endangered species. **Eighteen species of seabirds** nest on Kure including Black-footed albatross (*Phoebastria nigripes*) and Christmas shearwaters (*Puffinus nativitatus*). The **endangered**

Laysan teal (*Anas laysanensis*) was recently introduced to Kure. Currently **native plant species are outnumbered** by non-native and invasive plant species. **DLNR is committed to eradicating the invasive plant Golden crown-beard** (*Verbesina encelioides*) from the atoll. Invasive plants are a significant management concern because they displace native plant habitat and nesting areas, and may entrap wildlife in a dense vegetative mass. Native plants are an integral resource for nesting habitat and dune stabilization. **This position is a unique opportunity to protect and recover important habitat while living in an intact wildlife sanctuary!**

Kure Atoll is an extremely remote work location. Transportation to/from Kure Atoll is by ship and is infrequent. **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.** The field teams consist of 6 to 8 people. Due to limited transportation, **there are only 2 field seasons per year** (approximately 6 months each). **Contact on Kure is limited** to text only e-mail (no pictures or attachments) through the field station's satellite phone. There is no internet or cell phone service available.

Strict Quarantine: 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 new and frozen for 48 hours prior to departure to Kure Atoll. All "hard" items (cameras, electronics, musical instruments, etc.) must be inspected thoroughly and may need to be frozen or fumigated prior to departure.

Primary responsibilities include: invasive plant removal (manual and chemical), Big-headed ant monitoring, Laysan teal monitoring, native plant propagation and out-planting, vegetation surveys, seabird surveys and assisting with banding events, Hawaiian monk seal monitoring, marine debris removal, data collection and entry, weekly meetings. Additionally, all personnel will help with regular camp upkeep and chores outside of regular work hours.

****Although the work load is diverse, most of the hours are dedicated to invasive plant removal (75-80%)****

Desired Skills/Experience: invasive species management, plant identification, Hawaiian plant propagation and out-planting, avian reproductive monitoring and identification, binocular/spotting scope use, data management, familiarity with Excel and ArcGIS, GPS use. Other useful skills include: carpentry, solar equipment maintenance, small boat experience.

Requirements: strong interpersonal skills, excellent physical and mental health, able to walk 10 miles per day with a 40lb pack over uneven terrain, lift 50 lbs, work for long hours in uncomfortable and/or unpredictable weather, bend or stoop for long periods of time, able to swim, 20/20 color vision or correctable lenses.

Must be comfortable with use of pesticides.

Personnel can expect to work 40+ hrs/wk. Although most weeks are Monday-Friday, work hours are project dependent and may include early mornings, evenings, and weekends. DLNR/ DOFAW will provide transportation between Honolulu and Kure Atoll. Travel dates are subject to change. Lodging and food while on Kure and in transit between Honolulu and Kure are provided. Most field clothes and gear are provided. All other transportation, housing, and personal items must be supplied by applicant. Kure Atoll Conservancy will award \$1000 at the end of the field season to help offset these costs.



Please send resume, cover letter, and three references to Matt Saunter & Naomi Worcester: kureatoll@gmail.com

Physical Requirements for work at Kure Atoll Wildlife Sanctuary: Example activities/repetitions are listed above. Weather conditions may be sunny, hot, cold, windy, and/or rainy

| Task | Physical description | Weight (lbs) | Repetition | Distance | Duration | Physical conditions |
|--|---|------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Lift/Carry supplies in 5 gallon buckets, haul to camp | Lift/Carry, transfer to boat/wheelbarrow | 20-30 lbs | 100 per offload/transfer from truck to ship, etc | Carry up to 100 feet, plus hauling 700 ft | 4+ hours per offload, plus several times per season | Uneven surface, soft sand, hills, wave action |
| Lift/Carry 5-6 gallon water jugs, haul water to shore/camp | Lift/Carry, transfer to boat/wheelbarrow | 50 lbs | 30 jugs per offload, plus 2-4 jugs/week, as needed | Carry up to 100 feet, plus hauling 700 ft | 1 hour per offload, plus several times per season | Uneven surface, soft sand, hills, wave action |
| Pushing/pulling wheel barrows | Pushing/pulling | 100 lbs | 15 trips per offload and as needed | 700 feet | 6 hrs per offload, as needed | Uneven surface, soft sand, hills |
| Back pack / Spray herbicide | Carrying, walking, lifting | 20-40lbs | 5 days/week | 4+ miles | 4-8 hours/day | Uneven surface, soft sand, up and down hills |
| Lift/Carry nursery trays | Lift/Carry, transfer to wheelbarrow | 50 lbs | 2 times a week/ as needed | Up to 40 feet | Up to 5 minutes | Uneven surface, soft sand |
| Marine Debris | Lifting/hauling/ carrying, using hand tools | Variable, can be heavy, cumbersome | As needed to collect debris | 10-300 feet | 8+hrs per month | Uneven surface, soft sand, hills, wave action |
| Boating | Standing, sitting, swimming, loading supplies | | Up to 4-6 times per season | | 1-6 hours, during offloads and surveys | Bouncing, jarring, jolting, sun/wind/cold |
| Painting | Repetitive motion | | 2 times a season | | 4-6 hours | Standing, reaching |
| Tin can crushing for recycling/trash | Swinging /pounding sledge hammer, Squatting | 3 lb sledge hammer | Continuous pounding/ 3-4 times week | | 2-4 hours per month | Squatting, repetitive motion |
| Restraining albatross | Holding birds, repetitive motion | 4-5 lbs | 200 squats /kneeling + restraint | | 4 hours/day during banding events | Uneven or hard surface |
| Albatross counting | Squeezing hand triggers | Pack weight 10+ lbs | 800 /day | | 10 hrs/day, 5-7 days | Uneven surface, hills, soft sand |
| Shearwater Survey | Squatting, kneeling, capturing, restraining | Pack weight 10+ lbs | 60/ survey | | 3-4 hours, 3-4 times a year | After dark, uneven /hard substrate |



For more information visit the Kure Atoll Conservancy website:

<http://www.kureatollconservancy.org/>

Kure Atoll Blog:

<http://kureatollconservancy.org/explore/kure-blog/>

Kure Atoll Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Kure-Atoll-Conservancy-138668706143905/?ref=hl>

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument:

<http://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov/visit/kure.html>