

# Hawaii Wildlife Fund

## Maui Marine Volunteer Projects

Mahalo for your interest in volunteering! Hawai'i Wildlife Fund leads research, monitoring and conservation efforts to help protect Hawai'i's fragile marine ecosystem. The projects listed below are only made possible by the hard work and *kokua* of visiting and resident volunteers and are extremely valuable in our conservation efforts!

### **Important information:**

- \*Individuals, groups and families welcome!
- \*After looking at the project list below, please contact us with the *confirmed* dates you will be available to volunteer along with your preferred projects.
- \*Please send us a short description of your relevant experience, and/ or resume so we can best place you as a volunteer and utilize your skills!
- \*Small children can participate in most programs if accompanied by an adult.
- \*There are NO FEES for these volunteer projects! However, please note that we have NO accommodations for volunteers, or stipends.

### **Contact information:**

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Hawai'i Wildlife Fund  
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### Summer Project

#### **•Hawksbill Turtle Nest Watch, Maui**

Length: 2-6 hrs/night

Hardiness level (scale 1 to 5; 1 being the easiest to 5 being the hardest): 1-3

Advance notice (how much?): Variable schedule but at least a week notice

Best time to volunteer: July & August (Peak season!)

Hawksbill sea turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), or 'Ea to Hawaiians, are one of three marine turtles native to Hawai'i. HWF has been conducting research and monitoring the nesting activities of Hawksbill sea turtles since 1996. There are fewer than 100 adult female hawksbills that nest in Hawai'i, and the species is listed as critically endangered in Hawai'i and worldwide. Through conservation efforts, public awareness campaigns, installation of a fence to promote dune restoration, radio and satellite tracking, and coordination of a volunteer nest watch program, HWF is helping to preserve hawksbills and their nesting habitat.

#### *Duties include:*

- Attending nightly vigils awaiting nesting hawksbill sea turtles.
- Measuring & tagging for individual ID purposes.
- VHF radio/satellite tracking and other research.
- Nest monitoring during hatching.
- Supporting protected hatchling journey to ocean.
- Dune habitat restoration, fence mending and beach cleanups.

## All Year Intermittent Projects

### •***Monk Seal Watch, Maui***

Length: 2 hrs (min)

Hardiness level (scale 1 to 5; 1 being the easiest to 5 being the hardest): 1

Advance notice (how much?): Sporadic visitation, no advance notice needed

The Hawaiian monk seal (*Monachus schauinslandi*), or 'Ilio holo kai, is Hawaii's only pinniped. It is a species that is considered endemic (i.e. found nowhere else) to the islands. They are also Hawaii's official State Mammal and are endangered. For the past 11 years, HWF has voluntarily coordinated the Monk Seal Watch on Maui, educating the public and protecting monk seal "haul outs." Volunteers with the Monk Seal Watch create a "safety zone" around hauled out seals, marking the area with yellow tape and standing guard to ensure the animals are not disturbed.

*Duties include:*

- Watching over monk seals as they rest on beaches.
- Educating the public.

## All Year Projects

### •***Makai Watch, Maui***

Length: 2-5hrs

Hardiness level (scale 1 to 5; 1 being the easiest to 5 being the hardest): 2

Advance notice (how much?): One week notice requested but not required

Makai Watch is a coastal area monitoring and protection initiative that grew from a collaborative effort of community organizations, volunteers, conservation groups and state agencies. Now officially sanctioned by the State of Hawaii, Makai Watch works to restore and sustain Hawaii's coastal resources through community involvement. HWF established Maui's first Makai Watch at Ahihi Kina'u Natural Area Reserve and Keoneo'i'o in 2003.

*Duties include:*

- Assisting trained naturalists in near shore management through education, observation and monitoring.
- Raising awareness and reach out to the community: Makai Watch participants provide ocean users with information about marine ecology, culture, history, regulations, safety, and appropriate behavior.
- Monitoring sites for biological and human-use: Makai Watch participants collect information on the human use of marine resources (fishing, kayaking, collecting, etc.) and on the biological condition of those resources. Community members help to create a baseline inventory and use the results to gauge the success of their project such as increased numbers of fish or improved coral health.
- Observing sites and encouraging compliance: Makai Watch participants observe the area, encourage users to learn and obey area regulations, and identify and report illegal activities.

### •***Marine Debris Recovery at South Point, Big Island***

Length: 5 hrs

Hardiness level (scale 1 to 5; 1 being the easiest to 5 being the hardest): 4

Advance notice (how much?): Clean ups announced by invitation

Cleanups are held on select Saturdays. In collaboration with NOAA and UH SEA Grant, 90 tons of debris has been removed from the Waiohinu – Ka Lae area of South Point. Cleaning of the coastline is ongoing, educate the community about the problem of marine debris, and

organize a consortium of interested community groups and individuals to begin a regular cleanup schedule.

OTHER OPTIONS FOR GIVING:

We have an Adoption donation program where you can adopt one of Hawai'i's endangered or protected species. You can adopt a Humpback Whale, Hawaiian Monk Seal, adult or hatchling Green and Hawksbill turtle, Bottlenose and/or Spinner Dolphin. Multiple adoptions available! For more information, please see our website at [www.wildhawaii.org](http://www.wildhawaii.org) and go to the "Support" section.

We also accept other donations such as cash, supplies, and equipment. They are all tax-deductible. For a list of projects in which you can donate to, contact Hawaii Wildlife Fund (contact info above).

For those interested, there is a marine naturalist training course through Maui Community College in the Marine Options Program (MOP). The course is about 6 weeks, 2 hrs/wk and cost around \$200. Advanced registration required. Contact the Marine Options Program Coordinator, Donna Brown, at 808-984-3203 or [donnabro@hawaii.edu](mailto:donnabro@hawaii.edu). MCC website: <http://maui.hawaii.edu/>