

Job Type: Volunteer

Location: Kure Atoll Seabird Sanctuary

Closing Date: OPEN

Duration of Positions Seeking:

Position 1 - Summer Camp, 2013 Volunteer (July 1, 2013 – September 30, 2013)

Position 2 - Winter Camp 2013-2014 Volunteer (August 5, 2013 – April 1, 2014)

Description:

The State of Hawai‘i, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DLNR/DOFAW) is seeking volunteers to work at Kure Atoll Seabird Sanctuary. Kure Atoll is a part of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM) and is located 1400 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. The atoll is an important breeding site for a sizable and diverse population of wildlife, with several rare or endangered species.

Eighteen species of seabirds nest on Kure Atoll, including Mōlī or Laysan Albatross (*Phoebastria immutabilis*), Ka‘upu or Black-footed albatross (*Phoebastria nigripes*) and Christmas Shearwater (*Puffinus nativitatis*). There are currently 15 native and 28 introduced plant species known on Green Island. Native plants are an integral resource for seabird nesting habitat and dune stabilization. Invasive plants are a significant management concern because they displace native plant habitat and seabird nesting areas. These plants entrap seabirds and reduce airflow causing increased humidity and temperatures. In 2010 DLNR embarked on an ambitious goal to eradicate the invasive weed *Verbesina encelioides* from Kure Atoll. The project has been a huge success and the island is responding with increasing seabird and native plant populations.

Kure Atoll is an extremely remote work location. Transportation to Kure Atoll is by private plane and boat. Access is limited to scheduled vessel cruises only (approximately every 6 months) and once on island there is no coming or going in between other than an emergency evacuation. Living conditions consist of one concrete structure and an elevated wooden bunkhouse. Contact to the outside world is limited to text only e-mails sent via Iridium satellite phone with no Internet access. The ability to live with a small group of people in a confined area for an extended period of time is of utmost importance. Fieldworkers are given their own room (8’ x 10’) within a 16’ X 32’ bunkhouse structure. The main building has shared kitchen and office space. The teams consist of 5 to 6 people. The total population on Green Island usually ranges from 5 to 8 people.

DLNR/DOFAW has established strict ecosystem protection protocols to prevent introductions of alien species. 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, musical instruments, etc...) will be inspected thoroughly and frozen or fumigated if needed. Due to strict quarantine protocols there is no fresh food allowed on the island. Most food is either canned, dried, frozen and/or packaged for a longer shelf life.

For more information about Kure Atoll, please see:

- The Kure Atoll Conservancy website: <http://www.kureatollconservancy.org/>
- Kure Atoll Conservancy Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Kure-Atoll-Conservancy/138668706143905>
- Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument website: <http://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov/visit/kure.html>

Volunteers are expected to work 40 hours/week though this does not mean 8-5 M-F, but may include evenings and weekends. Primary responsibilities include: invasive plant removal using chemical and mechanical methods (majority of the time is spent working with invasive plants), native plant propagation, seabird and shorebird surveys and banding, monk seal monitoring, vegetation surveys, marine debris removal, data collection/management and facility maintenance. Campers are also expected to perform regular chores on their own time, such as keeping the facilities clean and hand washing laundry. Each team member is expected to cook once to twice a week.

Prior experience in the following is desired: invasive species control, native plant propagation and out-planting, shorebird and seabird monitoring and identification, binocular/spotting scope use, GPS, data management, familiarity with Excel and ArcGIS. Other useful skills: carpentry, solar equipment maintenance, small boat experience and cooking.

Requirements: Must be in excellent health. Physical abilities including walking 10 miles per day with a 40-lb pack, lifting 50 lbs, working for long hours in hot, sunny conditions, performing repetitive movements and bending or stooping for extended periods of time. Knowledge of native Hawaiian species and invasive plant identification skills.

DLNR DOFAW will provide transportation between Honolulu and Kure Atoll. Travel dates are subject to change due to ship and airplane schedules. Lodging and food are provided. Most field clothes and gear are provided.

Please send resume, cover letter and three references to:

Matthew Saunter
kureatoll@gmail.com

Matthew Saunter
Kure Atoll Biological Field Station Camp Leader
Kure Atoll Seabird Sanctuary
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