



## DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

### News Release

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GOVERNOR

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#### **AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT FUNDS SUPPORT 45 CONSERVATION JOBS THROUGHOUT HAWAI‘I**

HONOLULU – The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) was awarded federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds from the Corporation for National and Community Service to support a one-year State of Hawai‘i Recovery Youth Conservation Corps Program. The \$910,974 award will support 45 conservation-focused AmeriCorps positions throughout the state.

“The Department of Land and Natural Resources is excited to be able to give 45 young people jobs in our rural communities to do much needed conservation work during these tough economic times,” stated Randy Kennedy, DOFAW Native Ecosystem Section manger.

Recovery Youth Conservation Corps members will work to protect Hawai‘i’s beautiful and unique cultural and natural resources. Opportunities include: Helping protect the best of Hawai‘i’s unique biology, geology and cultural sites in Maui Nui with Maui Natural Area Reserves System (NARS); providing cultural and natural resource information to visitors as an interpreter at Diamond Head State Monument; monitoring Hawksbill turtles within Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park; protecting the remaining native forests on O‘ahu in remote areas only accessible by helicopter as part of the Ko‘olau Mountain Watershed Partnership program; helping coordinate the activities of volunteers performing alien plant control, feral animal control, and native outplanting with Kaua‘i NARS.

The Corporation for National and Community Service directed Recovery funds to AmeriCorps Programs so individuals currently unemployed will gain work experience and valuable skills, and nonprofit organizations and communities negatively affected by the economic crisis will gain critical human resources.

The Youth Conservation Corps Program is a model for recovery as it provides young people throughout the state with entry-level conservation experience, a living stipend, health care, an education award (upon successful completion of term), loan forbearance, and child care.

Participants will spend 42 weeks in the conservation and resource management field developing job skills as they train side by side with environmental and resource professionals.

To learn more about available positions, please visit <http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/dofaw/RGCC/Apply>. Priority will be given to applicants who submit completed applications by August 31. Late applications will be considered if there is space available.

In addition to fully funding the Recovery Youth Conservation Corps Program, the State of Hawai'i was also awarded a match waiver and \$239,319 for its existing YCC program.

The DLNR-DOFAW will administer the State of Hawai'i Recovery Youth Conservation Corps. The non-profit organization Kupu was selected as the program coordinator.

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