



For Immediate Release

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Teachers encouraged to apply for outdoor science education program

KAMUELA, Hawai‘i—October 15, 2015—Hawai‘i Island teachers and their students will have opportunities this year to leave the classroom and study firsthand the island’s ahupua‘a, or traditional Hawaiian mountain-to-sea land divisions.

The Kohala Center is recruiting teachers for its Hawai‘i Island Meaningful Environmental Education for Teachers (HI-MEET) program, an innovative, hands-on, science-based program that focuses on bay and watershed education in ahupua‘a along Hawai‘i Island’s leeward coast and Kohala Mountain.

The deadline to apply is Friday, November 6. Prospective applicants can receive more information and application materials online at kohalacenter.org/hi-meet or contact Ilene Grossman at The Kohala Center at igrossman@kohalacenter.org or (808) 887-6411. Teachers who participated in past programs are eligible and encouraged to apply again. The program focuses on intermediate and high school teachers in Kailua-Kona, North and South Kohala, and Honoka‘a including public, charter, and private schools.

Students will learn about their ahupua‘a through classroom presentations and field trips, and identify and implement a scientific research project on topics such as coral reefs, forest flora and fauna, water quality, climate change, non-point source pollution, runoff, sedimentation, and marine debris. The program will culminate in a year-end conference at which students and teachers can share their research work and learning.

“This program is a great opportunity for teachers to lead their students in field-based hands-on environmental science research projects,” said Grossman, environmental educator and program leader with The Kohala Center. “Teachers will be able to train their students to be citizen scientists and contribute to the knowledge and stewardship of the island’s ecosystems.”

Staff from The Kohala Center will provide technical, logistical, and programmatic support to 16 selected teachers from Hawai‘i Island during the academic year. Scientists and cultural experts working in these areas will also participate in the program through classroom presentations and project support.

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The Kohala Center is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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This project is supported by NOAA B-WET (Bay Watershed Education and Training Program) funding. Mini-grants will be available to participating teachers to purchase project-related supplies, and the program will fund transportation and substitute teacher costs associated with their projects.

About The Kohala Center

Founded in the year 2000, The Kohala Center (kohalacenter.org) is an independent, community-based center for research, conservation, and education. We turn research and ancestral knowledge into action, so that communities in Hawai‘i and around the world can thrive—ecologically, economically, culturally, and socially.

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