

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Janis Wong, media relations

The Kohala Center jwong@kohalacenter.org

direct: 808-325-1114, office: 808-887-6411

Hawai'i FoodCorps extends service member application deadline

KAMUELA, HI—March 18, 2013—Individuals interested in becoming Hawai'i FoodCorps service members now have until March 31 to submit applications. The national <u>FoodCorps</u> is recruiting service members throughout Hawai'i who are passionate about healthy food, farms, and kids to help connect our *keiki* (children) to real food and help them grow up healthy.

FoodCorps, a national organization addressing childhood obesity and food insecurity in underserved communities, has selected The Kohala Center as its host site in Hawai'i.

FoodCorps is seeking to hire ten service members in Hawai'i. Applicants must be 18 years or older by the start of service and hold a high school diploma, GED, or equivalent. More information and an online application are available at http://foodcorps.org/become-a-service-member.

Selected service members will dedicate one year of full-time (35.5 hours per week) public service in school food systems, where they will expand hands-on nutrition education programs, build and tend school gardens, and help bring high-quality, locally produced foods into schools. They will receive a \$15,000 living allowance; basic health, vision and dental insurance; potential student loan forbearance, and partial childcare reimbursements. Those who complete their 1,700 hours of service receive a \$5,500 AmeriCorps Segal Education Award, which can be used to pay tuition or repay qualified student loans. All service members receive two national trainings, mentoring from food system leaders, as well as local and online training on topics related to food, farming, nutrition, cooking, and public health.

About FoodCorps

FoodCorps is a nationwide team of leaders that connects kids to real food and helps them grow up healthy. FoodCorps places motivated leaders in limited-resource communities for a year of public service where they teach kids about what healthy food is and where it comes from, build and tend school gardens, and bring high-quality local food into public school cafeterias. Funding for FoodCorps is provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, AmeriCorps, and a diverse array of private and public donors.

Hawai'i FoodCorps extends service member application deadline, page 2

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About The Kohala Center

The Kohala Center (http://www.kohalacenter.org) is an independent, community-based center for research, education, and conservation. The Center was established in direct response to the request of island residents to create greater educational and employment opportunities by enhancing—and celebrating—Hawai'i's spectacular natural and cultural landscapes.