



YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

PROTECTING AND PRESERVING HAWAII'S NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES BY ENGAGING HAWAII'S YOUTH IN HANDS-ON CONSERVATION PROJECTS.

ma ka hana ka 'ike : in working one learns

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) was established to engage Hawaii's high school and college aged youth in field-based conservation projects. Participants work alongside managers on a variety of projects including endangered species recovery, watershed management, invasive species removal, and community projects. The Legislature has directed the DLNR to fund the YCC through the Natural Area Reserve Special Fund (HRS § 247-7).



Service Learning ≈ Traditional Ecological Knowledge ♦ Field Experience ⚙ Team Work

- “Over these past 6 months, I have gained direction, more responsibility and a stronger appreciation of our unique ecosystems. I am grateful for this year-long internship and my mentors. They have helped me grow in so many ways.” - David Cadaoas, Hawaii Island Year-Round YCC member 2009.

2009 Program Facts:

- Participants contributed 100,000+ service hours in natural resource management activities in 2009
- Successfully applied for and was awarded over \$1.15 million in ARRA funds to:
 - 1) hire 45 year-round members
 - 2) serve as match requirement for FY10
- ~97 FTE jobs for less than \$475K in State dollars (including 45 FTE ARRA positions).



- “Without HYCC, I wouldn’t have the goals to help the Hawaiian people culturally and the Hawaiian Islands environmentally.” - Angela Doane-Mao, Maui Member 2007.



Program Benefits:

- Reconnects Hawaii’s youth to the natural environment that surrounds them
- Contributes to building a strong and educated local work force that understands the importance of natural resources in Hawaii
- Trains youth in the management skills involved in conserving the unique native ecosystems found in Hawaii

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