



# OAH'U, HAWAI'I

July 30-August 7, 2020

Ocean Matters Marine Science Through Service Programs

**Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) of the University of Hawaii, Coconut Island, Oahu, HI**

Come along with 12-20 other ocean loving high-school aged students (15 or older) from all over the world for the experience of a lifetime. Earn Open Water or Advanced scuba certification; explore Oahu's underwater riches in daily scuba dives; learn

the latest in marine research in hands-on labs and presentations by University of Hawaii researchers. Address a pressing environmental problem facing the coral reef that supports HIMB research and programming through service.

Partake in rare experiences that explore the nexus of indigenous knowledge, science, and sustainability. Build skills to positively impact our changing world.

July 21-31, 2017

Oahu, Hawaii

# Frequently Asked Questions

## How might I benefit from coming on this program?

Alumni of the program have identified the following benefits: explore whether or not you want to pursue college study and a career in marine science; increase self esteem through meeting both physical and academic

challenges; develop research skills; feel empowered by helping to solve a pressing environmental problem; develop team work skills including effective oral and written communication, appreciation for differences, appropriate expression of

feelings, effective problem solving; develop leadership skills; receive scuba certification; receive 6-10 hours of community service credit. See our website for alumni testimonials.

## What are the prerequisites for the program?

You do not need scuba experience to attend this program, as Open Water or Advanced scuba certification is included (students who wish to complete Advanced

certification must already have Open Water certification. All students must be: 1) high-school aged, grades 9-12, 2) minimally 15 years of age when the

program begins and 3) be able to swim 200 yards without stopping and tread water for ten minutes in order to pass scuba certification.



## What activities will we be doing?

After breakfast, mornings will feature scuba instruction: 2 days in a confined water setting and 2 days of instruction in open water including testing for certification. Once everyone in the group is PADI Open Water scuba certified, we will explore Oahu's underwater treasures with two recreational boat dives a day for three days tailored to the group's comfort and skill level, including a bioluminescent night dive, typically a favorite experience of the group.

Afternoons will feature marine biology activities such as instruction on the latest research on coral reef resilience; labs; and other hands-on opportunities to learn more about the challenges facing the ocean from HIMB researchers.

Our service project will support HIMB research or education as needed. Some of the projects done in the past include: a seahorse survey; measuring patterns of coral breakage to help enact effective legislation; removal of invasive mangroves; testing of coral key cards for assessing coral bleaching with citizen scientists; drone coral monitoring; and sampling of symbiotic algae for a Pacific rim project on coral/algal recruitment.

Our Hawaiian cultural component includes rare opportunities such as a hike through the rain forest on the windward side of the Oahu, tracing the source of fresh water with a native Hawaiian elder sharing indigenous wisdom and service at a native Hawaiian fishpond, learning about sustainable fishing practices and watershed management.

Evenings will feature dinner and programs by the water under the stars, where we'll learn more about how the island we are staying on was formed and hear legends from a native storyteller and stargaze to learn about celestial navigation from a member of the Hōkūle'a crew, a traditional two-hulled voyaging canoe that traced the original Polynesian migration to Hawai'i (and beyond) using only the stars and dead reckoning for navigation.

Leadership training is also a component for our program, as everything we do requires young people to take responsibility for themselves and others in the group and allows opportunity to take leadership roles.

## Where will we be staying?

We will be staying on Coconut Island in HIMB researcher housing. Our entire group will reside together in the Lanai Suites, which feature 4 person rooms with large ocean facing windows. Each room has four beds, a full bathroom, a kitchenette with a small refrigerator, and a paddle fan.

Since HIMB does not have food service, we will have a native Hawaiian private chef Noel Nahale, who will cater our meals, which will be served al fresco and waterside. With notice, we are able to accommodate dietary restrictions, so just ask.

For questions, please call director Laura Parker Roerden at 617-304-4402.

