

Announcing Winners of the 2012 Governor Tauese P.F. Sunia Memorial Coral Reef Conservation Summer Internships (7th Annual) In the Pacific Islands Region

The United States Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) is pleased to announce the winners of the two Governor Tauese P.F. Sunia Memorial Coral Reef Conservation Summer Internships for the Pacific Islands Region. The 2012 interns are:

- Tiana Santos, who is an Agriculture Major, studying Forestry and Natural Resource Management, at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hawaii, with an interest in the connection between land activities and how they affect the ocean and coral reefs; and
- Patrick Zerzan, who is completing his MS in Environmental Science at the University of Guam with a keen interest in coral reef ecosystem management.

These internships are a partnership initiative sponsored by the U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Office of Insular Affairs; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); the U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Tiana Santos will spend the summer working with the USDA/NRCS Kahului Field Office learning about NRCS programs, the conservation planning process, natural resource concerns and developing conservation plans. She will also assist with conservation planning and implementation and spend some time working on the watershed planning process and habitat restoration efforts with the West Maui Watershed Partnership.

Patrick Zerzan will spend the summer working with the USFWS on the West Maui Watershed Partnership, a U.S. Coral Reef Task Force initiative involving state and federal agency partners (Hawaii DLNR, USEPA, Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA, USFWS, USDA/NRCS), farmers, landowners, and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs). He will assist the Partnership Coordinator with the watershed planning process, help address non-point source pollution, and stakeholder and public outreach. He will also be learning about NRCS programs and the conservation planning process with the NRCS Kahului Field Office

For more information, contact:

Gail H. Ichikawa
NRCS Pacific Islands Area State Office
P.O. Box 50004
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850-0050
Phone: (808) 541-2600 ext. 110
Fax: (808) 541-1335
email: gail.ichikawa@hi.usda.gov

Jennifer Higashino
USFWS
Maui, Hawaii
Email: jennifer_higashino@fws.gov