

PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Participants for Papahānaumokuākea ‘Ahahui Alaka‘i Program Chosen

Strengthening community restoration efforts, developing a merit badge for Girl Scouts that fosters environmental stewardship, and connecting people to the places they live are a few of the projects participants in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument’s ‘Ahahui Alaka‘i Program promise to develop in their local communities in return for a 10-day experience centered around the Monument.

Selected from a field of 65 applicants from across the world, the 12 participants will spend three days on O‘ahu preparing, learning natural and cultural history, and meeting with past participants. Then they will spend seven days on remote Midway Atoll within the Monument, located 1,250 miles northwest of Honolulu. There they will have an opportunity to more intimately understand Papahānaumokuākea’s wildlife and cultural resources through workshops, classroom activities, and field trips. The ‘Ahahui Alaka‘i Program is in its second year and solicited nominations for participation from educators in formal and informal settings, community leaders, and people in positions that support community change and stewardship. The participants, their hometowns, affiliation and proposed projects are listed on the following page. Interviews with participants are available by request.

Papahānaumokuākea is cooperatively managed to ensure ecological integrity and achieve strong, long-term protection and perpetuation of Northwestern Hawaiian Island ecosystems, Native Hawaiian culture, and heritage resources for current and future generations. Three co-trustees – the Department of Commerce, Department of the Interior, and State of Hawai‘i – joined by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, protect this special place, which is now being considered for inscription as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. For more information, please visit www.papahanaumokuakea.gov

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