

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND RESPONSIBLE COASTAL ZONE USE

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Regionally relevant public education programs help participants better understand and appreciate coastal resources and ultimately contribute to natural resource stewardship and responsible use. NOAA Pacific Services Center has developed NOAA's *Honua*, a culturally targeted suite of education and outreach products aimed at increasing environmental understanding and awareness in the Pacific region. The products feature technical and hands-on learning activities to encourage people to explore their *honua*, the world around them. Project components include

DATA VISUALIZATIONS:

The technical features include detailed visualizations of NOAA science, presented through a customized touch screen interface designed to enhance informal education in public settings. The visualizations feature NOAA-related science data in a 3D platform using a spherical display. There are plans to also offer the data visualizations via the Web in the near future.

ENGAGING STUDENTS:

The classroom integration of NOAA's *Honua* includes activity guides and lesson plans for students focused on a variety of NOAA-related topics including climate, hazards, and marine biology. The curriculum uses the local ocean environment as a model through which students learn the scientific process and meet educational benchmarks as well as introduce NOAA science to the next generation of environmental stewards.

Direct interaction with local students and instructors through NOAA Sea Camp is another way NOAA Pacific Services Center serves the learning community. Currently in its inception year, Sea Camp seeks to expose students and their teachers to the science and technology of monitoring island watersheds, understanding their role in protecting these areas, and communicating results to the public.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS:

NOAA Pacific Services Center administers the B-WET Hawaii Program. This grant program strives to increase local knowledge about the environment through hands-on, community-based learning. BWET projects support environmental education by providing meaningful outdoor experiences for students and professional development opportunities for teachers. These educational projects focus on earth system sciences such as marine ecosystems, watersheds, hazard resilience, and climate change.

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