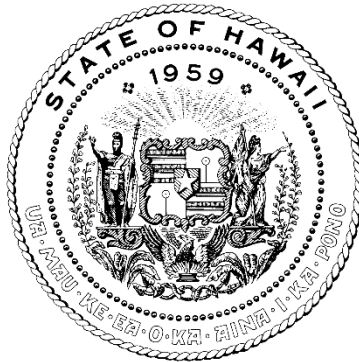


**REPORT TO THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE  
STATE OF HAWAI‘I  
2022 REGULAR SESSION**

**STATUS OF THE GREEN JOB YOUTH CORPS PROGRAM**



Prepared by

THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE

In Response to Act 181, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021

Honolulu, Hawai‘i  
December 2021

## **STATUS OF THE GREEN JOB YOUTH CORPS PROGRAM**

### **PURPOSE**

Act 181, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2021, amended Section 193-32, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), by adding a new paragraph to establish a Green Job Youth Corps Program that provides temporary work and training opportunities in the green jobs field.

SECTION 3 of the Act requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to submit a report to the Legislature on its progress in implementing this Act no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022.

### **FINDINGS**

On October 28, 2021 funding for the Green Job Youth Corps Program was encumbered in a contract between DLNR and Kupu to administer the program. The contract amount encumbered is \$5,000,000 for salaries only. Kupu will provide 135 full and part time positions in the fields of natural resource management, agriculture, conservation, renewable energy, or other sustainability professions. Additional needed funding for administration of the program, travel and training of program participants and other costs will be provided by philanthropic donations to Kupu and host site fees. As of 11/22/2021 Kupu has secured \$400,000 in matching funds for the program. A host site fee of \$2,000 will be charged to forty (40) state positions. All other positions including additional state positions will be charged at a rate of \$12,000 per participant.

On November 15, 2021 a joint DLNR Kupu press release announced the launching of the Kupu 'Āina Corps Program funded by the Green Job Youth Corps Program. The Kupu 'Āina Corps Program name was selected to bring continuity to a full-time version of the successful 2020 Kupu 'Āina Corps program, in which Kupu and the State of Hawai'i provided over 350 displaced workers with employment within the Green Jobs sector. The program will give those who have been economically disadvantaged by the global pandemic opportunities for career up-skilling and reskilling in sustainability professions, while also providing Hawai'i organizations with staffing resources to support their recovery. The Program is now accepting applications for both year-long full-time and part-time job applicants and for 'green' organizations interested in serving as host sites for these Kupu 'Āina Corps members.

As of 12/29/21 there have been 260 applicants for the positions and 92 host site applications. Of the host site applications 78 have been in the field of Natural Resource management with two host site in each the Native Hawaiian Cultural Stewardship field and the Renewable Energy and Tech Industries and ten positions in Local Agriculture.

The Kupu 'Āina Corps will run in two cycles. The first round of positions will start February 7, 2022 and run until January 28, 2023. The second round of positions will start February 22, 2022 and run until February 11, 2023.