

## **Koke'e Resource Conservation Program**

Sponsored by the Garden Island Resource Conservation & Development, Inc.

PO Box 1108 Waimea, HI 96796

(808) 335-0045, or (808) 335-0924, fax: (808) 335-0304

[rcp@aloha.net](mailto:rcp@aloha.net), [krcp.org](http://krcp.org)

## **Volunteering with KRCP**

The Koke'e Resource Conservation Program does primarily alien species control work in the forests of Kaua'i. This involves strenuous hiking and the use of herbicides. The program provides a framework for volunteers to be involved in preserving the spectacular natural resources of the area, and is supported by the Garden Island Resource, Conservation & Development, Inc., and the Department of Land & Natural Resources. Funding comes from The Nature Conservancy, the Hawai'i Community Foundation, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cannon Fund, US Forest Service, and other private donors.

Rustic housing at Koke'e is available for accepted applicants. The Koke'e CCC Camp housing is provided by Hui o Laka/Koke'e Museum. The cabin is located at the top of the mountain in Koke'e State Park. This program is for those who are interested in forest ecology and forest conservation. We are not involved with the marine sciences and are located a long way from the ocean.

Volunteers must have their own health insurance to stay here, we do not cover any accidents or illnesses. We can provide transportation from the airport and we can help you to get supplies when needed but it is recommended that you rent a vehicle. A vehicle for recreational use is not provided. This allows you to go down to the beaches in the evening or on your days off. We can try to arrange volunteers to share the expense of renting a vehicle whenever possible. We must also strictly enforce a policy of no alcoholic beverages for those under 21 years of age during any part of your stay on Kauai.

The cabin is very nice historic facility set in the forests of Koke'e. There is a communal kitchen equipped with pots, stoves, and refrigerator. There are four bedrooms with bunk beds, hot showers, laundry facility, and a large living room. It is a beautiful place to stay for a quiet forest experience. Our workdays are often filled with camaraderie amongst ourselves, resident volunteers, and local volunteers. We try to mix up the week so that we work in a variety of areas within the Park or forest reserves and learn more about the different ecological areas of the park.

But we tell all the potential volunteers that it can sometimes get very lonely here and you must have some emotional self-sufficiency to enjoy it. Staff does not live at the camp and sometimes there are no other volunteers staying here. We do not have an evening program for the camp and you must be able to entertain yourself in the evening. There have been many runners who have stayed with us and enjoy running the many quiet roads and trails in the park.

### **Our program generally runs like this:**

Volunteers work 4 days each week working 10 hours each day and have 3 days off. Generally we work Monday through Thursday. In exchange for your work you are given 7 nights of accommodations per work week. For example, you work Mon-Thurs equaling 40 hours, you are given 7 days of accommodations.

### **You would need to bring:**

Bedding (sleeping bag)

WARM CLOTHES (it can get down to 40° F at night in winter, 60 °F in summer)

Raingear, Day pack, Drinking water bottles, flashlight

Hiking shoes with ankle support (preferable worn in. New shoes may give you blisters)

Old work clothes with long pants and long sleeves (long pants and long sleeves are required to work). You could bring clothes you wouldn't mind leaving and then have room for souvenirs!

Any medications you need

**Please do not bring:** Valuables (we haven't had any problems but you never know)

## **Koke'e State Park Volunteer Job Description**

**Position Title:** Resource Management Volunteer for Department of Land & Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, Kauai, with the Koke'e Resource Conservation Program (KRCP), a program of Garden Island Resource Conservation & Development, Inc.

**Purpose:** To perform vegetation management activities in Koke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks, the Alaka'i Wilderness Preserve and other forest reserves, involving primarily alien invasive plant (weed) removal but also sometimes including other management actions such as trail clearing, fencing of rare plants, and out-planting of natives and their subsequent care.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

- Identify target weeds and key natives in work areas, so as not to damage them
- Remove weeds manually by pulling or treat with appropriate herbicide
- Hike in rough terrain, through dense and sometimes thorny vegetation, in possibly slippery, steep areas
- Follow all instructions and safety precautions of KRCP staff; be mindful of the safety of others and yourself; must wear long pants, long sleeved shirts, hiking boots, gloves.

### **Qualifications:**

- Interest or training in botany and ecology
- Commitment to preservation of native Hawaiian ecosystems
- Ability to perform strenuous hiking, sometimes through thorny vegetation, and carry 35 lb backpack
- Comfortable and responsible in wilderness conditions, understand healthy camping
- Willingness to perform hard physical work and use herbicides
- No allergies, back problems, or other medical conditions
- Team player, safe worker
- Ability to accept instructions and put them into practice

**Supervised by:** Staff of KRCP during field hours

**Development opportunities:** You would learn and gain experience in the taxonomy, function and management of Hawaiian flora and terrestrial ecosystems, as well as the threats to these native forests and what can be done about them. Receive safety training and training in resource management methods. Spend time in one of Hawai'i's finest State Parks; also have an opportunity to participate in Koke'e Museum projects and programs.

### **Support: Equipment Provided:**

- Safety gear such as gloves, safety glasses, compass and map
- Machetes, clippers, machete belt & pouches as needed, herbicides
- Tally meter for counting weeds
- Equipment for special projects such as weedwackers and their relevant safety equipment (ear protection, face shields/helmets, chainsaw chaps) for trail clearing.

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The Koke'e Resource Conservation Program (KRCP) is a volunteer based alien species control program sponsored by the nonprofit Garden Island Resource Conservation & Development, Inc., in collaboration with the Hawai'i Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR), State Parks Division. KRCP involves the public in protecting native ecosystem resources, coordinating volunteers to conduct essential invasive noxious weed removal in selected areas. Funding comes from The Nature Conservancy, the Hawai'i Community Foundation, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cannon Fund, US Forest Service, and other private donors.

**Strategies** are 1) to remove the most disruptive weeds such as Kahili ginger (*Hedychium gardnerianum*) and Strawberry guava (*Psidium cattleianum*) from Special Ecological Areas (SEAs) that contain relatively intact ecosystems. The SEAs generally coincide with areas containing rare, threatened, and endangered native Hawaiian plant species; and 2) to target incipient weeds such as Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) and Firethorn (*Pyracantha angustifolia*).

The KRCP addresses a very critical need for this region. The much-visited Koke'e, Waimea Canyon, and Na Pali Coast State Parks encompass 12,386 acres on northwest Kaua'i and are bordered by Ku'ia and Hono'o Na Pali Natural Areas Reserves as well as the Alaka'i Wilderness Preserve. This ecologically rich area contains several native plant communities, including the rare Koa/Ohi'a Montane Mesic Forest. The relatively pristine, high elevation bogs of the Alaka'i are truly unique in the world and highly deserve protection. There are 26 threatened & endangered species and an additional 31 rare plant taxa are found in scattered locations throughout the State Parks. Indeed, Hawai'i has become the "endangered species capital of the world" due to the many threats that are degrading native habitat and the resultant loss of species; one-third of the federally listed endangered and threatened species are endemic to Hawai'i, and three-fourths of the nation's extinct plant and bird species once lived only on our islands.

Kaua'i has been severely impacted by two hurricanes since 1982, which have caused proliferation of nonnative invasive species. Biological invasion by alien weed species alters the population dynamics and community structure of native plant communities. "Native and endemic species are the true jewels of any ecosystem. The effects of non-native (alien) plants and animals constitute the greatest threat to native species and ecosystems in Hawai'i" (Biological Survey for Koke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks, Kaua'i, The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i, 1996)

Alteration and loss of native habitat is a significant problem for all components of these ecosystems. US Fish & Wildlife Service Recovery Plans for Kaua'i endangered plants specify alien plants as a priority #1 threat to the survival of all but 2 of the 49 listed endangered species discussed in these recovery plans. Remnants of the once extensive native forests need protection.

The project uses weed control strategies and methods developed, tested and proven by decades of work by the National Park Service (NPS), The Nature Conservancy, the State of Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, and DLNR. Weed removal methods are manual and mechanical where feasible, but generally involve the judicious use of herbicides. Generally, alien trees are notched and a small amount

of herbicide applied to the notch; the kahili ginger is cut and herbicide applied to the stump. These methods have been adapted for volunteer use and can serve as a model for forest management practices using volunteers.

KRCP has been highly successful and popular since it was officially started in January, 1998. During 1998 and 1999, KRCP provided supervised service projects for over 700 local elementary school students representing 14 schools, over 90 students from 6 different colleges, and many other educational groups such as Girl Scouts, Boys & Girls Club, and the Kailana Program for adjudicated adolescents. A group of 15 graduate students in Tropical Conservation from the University of Biodiversity of Sweden called their participation in our forest weeding program "very pedagogic!"

A printout of KRCP staff hours in the field compared to volunteer hours shows 5,428 staff hours and 15,784 volunteer hours. The program has successfully recruited volunteers to the point that its funding has been multiplied three times, leveraged to provide three times the work on the ground that staff have accomplished.

Over the past three and a half years KRCP staff and volunteers have accomplished an initial weeding in about 1,100 acres, or 20 % of the project area, have found new locations of several endangered species, and discovered many more relatively intact and botanically rich areas of forest that need protection now. We've weeded in the vicinity of 57 different listed Threatened and Endangered species and Species of Concern.

Just in the past year, KRCP initiated and/or participated in 19 public events centered on conservation work service projects. These were advertised in the local media and attendance added up to over 1,000 people. In two years, KRCP has been featured in 18 different magazine and newspapers articles.

Preserving the biodiversity of this unique region will only be realized by keeping pressure on the invasive species. The natural resources of Hawai'i contain magnificent ecosystems that are unique in the world, and need protection immediately. KRCP is addressing these concerns with work on the ground to preserve these upland forests and involve the community in resource conservation.

# Koke'e Resource Conservation Program

## Application for Voluntary Service and Overnight Accommodations at Koke'e

**Please complete this Registration form, and e-mail it with your RESUME, and a letter stating your interest in volunteering.**

Name: Birth date: M \_\_ F\_\_ Place of birth:  
Mailing Address:  
Home phone: Work phone: Cell phone:  
e-mail:  
Driver's/Passport ID Number:  
Employer Name:  
Employer Address:  
University Name:  
University Address:

Proposed Arrival Date to Kaua'i:  
Airline / flight #:

Proposed Arrival Date to Koke'e, (check in date):

Proposed Departure Date from Koke'e, (check out date):

Duration of volunteer workdays (please list proposed starting and end dates/weeks):

List **three** persons to notify in case of an emergency: (name, phone, relationship)

Koke'e State Park is no place to get sick; the volunteer housing is 15 miles distant from the closest community, and the volunteer work can be physically demanding. Describe your outdoor experience and regular physical activity. Provide an accurate assessment of your health, physical condition, or limitations. Please indicate if you are recovering from any recent injury, illness, or surgery.

List **medications** you take, as well as allergies or health problems you have:

Your physician: Physician's phone number:

Due to our insurance policy we are not able to accept any volunteers who do not have current medical insurance:

**Medical insurance company:**

**Policy number:**

**Koke'e Resource Conservation Program  
Volunteer Profile Form**

Date:

Name:

What is your college major?

What is your current level of knowledge regarding:

Botany

Ecology

Conservation

Hawaiian Ecology

Hawaiian Culture

Koke'e Trails

What are your personal skills and interests?

Do you have any special skills such as mechanical, carpentry, painting, nursery work?

Do you have any medical training?

Do you have any physical condition which might inhibit your ability to endure strenuous activity?

Do you have any allergies?

Are you a neat and tidy in your personal living?

Please discuss your reasons for volunteering.

**Helicopter training:** If you are volunteering for more than 3 weeks, there is a possibility that we would schedule remote camping trips and we may use helicopter transport to get to the camp site for

passengers. In order to be transported in the helicopter we require completion of an online basic training course. The online training is on the web at [www.iat.gov](http://www.iat.gov), which is free. Modules you need to complete are: A-101 Aviation Safety, A-105 Aviation Life Support Equipment, A-106 Aviation Mishap Report, A-108 Preflight Checklist Briefing, and A-113 Crash Survival. After completing the modules please fax, email, or mail your certificate of completion for each module. The training must be completed prior to your arrival.

**Communications:** Telephone and computer access is available. However, internet access is very slow and you will need a calling card to call long distance or internationally. In case of emergency, volunteers staying at Koke'e may be given messages by calling (808) 335-0045 (KRCP office), 808-335-0924 (Program coordinator Katie Cassel's residence), 808-652-8083 (Program coordinator cell phone). Mail can be sent and received at P. O. Box 1108, Waimea, HI 96796. Mail services (weighing, boxes, insurance) are available at the Post Offices in Kekaha and Waimea.

**Emergency Medical Services:** KVMH-West Kaua'i Medical Center, 4643 Waimea Canyon Dr., Waimea. (808) 274-3901. Volunteers must have medical insurance in order to work at Koke'e.

**Responsibilities:** Personal belongings will be kept neat and all areas of the cabin will be kept clean and orderly at all times. Do not move furniture. For everyone's comfort "quiet hours" and "lights out" begins at 10 pm.

**Alcohol:** No alcohol is allowed in the park.

**Transportation:** Recreational transportation is not provided. We will insure that you have transportation to and from the airport as well as to pick up supplies. On your days off, which typically Friday-Sunday and holidays, you are responsible for your own transportation. You may rent a car or there is public bus transportation Mon-Sat, the bus does not run on Sundays or holidays. KRCP work vehicles are for work purposes only and will not be lent out for your personal use.

## Job Description for Volunteers housed at Koke'e

KRCP volunteers who are enjoying long-term housing will spend at least four hours per week doing cleaning and maintenance of the cabin.

In addition to the daily work required of everyone staying at the cabin (washing dishes and cleaning kitchen surfaces and sinks ***after every use***, keeping all personal items in your room and keeping your bunk area neat and tidy), each week you should accomplish the following tasks:

- \*Sweep and scrub floors
- \*Scrub bathrooms including: toilets, showers, sink area, countertops, and floors (cleaning supplies are located under the kitchen sink).
- \*Clean refrigerator, stoves, ovens.
- \*Empty trashcans as needed; keep trash inside the building until it can be taken to the landfill in Kekaha or the transfer station in Hanapepe.
- \*Weeding landscape plantings or other tasks as assigned; wash windows and dust walls for cobwebs as needed.

Hui o Laka/Koke'e Natural History Museum  
P.O. Box 100, Kekaha, HI 06752  
(808) 335-9975      kokeemuseum@earthlink.net

Thank you for your interest in volunteering for conservation work on Kaua'i. Please consider becoming a member of Hui o Laka/Koke'e Natural History Museum. This community-based non-profit has provided visitor center interpretive services to Kaua'i's upland parks 365 days a year since 1952. Hui o Laka is renovating the Koke'e CCC Camp to serve as a volunteer and research center field station for this remote region and has supported the development of Koke'e Resource Conservation Program since 1998. This is your chance to underwrite significant work in Hawaiian ecology and to keep in touch with the myriad of research projects, public festivals, craft workshop, guided hikes, and volunteer opportunities in the western mountains of Kaua'i.

Benefits of membership:

- 10% discount in the Museum shop
- Reduced or waived fees for craft workshops, guided hikes, and lecture field days
- Members receive the Koke'e Activity Alert, and the Forest Hotline on email
- Members elect the Board of Trustees at the festive Annual Meeting

Hui o Laka/Koke'e Natural History Museum  
Membership Enrollment Form

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Gift \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Choose a membership level: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$1000+      Lama – *Laka's tree*  
\$500+      Kauila – *Patron*  
\$100+      Koa – *Sustaining member*  
\$50+      'Ohi'a – *Contributing member*  
\$25+      Hapu'u – *'Ohana (family) member*  
\$15      Mokihana – *Individual member*  
\$5      Maile – *Child member under 12*

I would like to make an additional contribution to: CCC Camp renovations \$ \_\_\_\_\_, KRCP \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Building an Interpretive Library**

As you find yourself getting more deeply involved in the information of Kauai's natural and cultural history as well as the philosophy and techniques of visitor interpretation, you may want to gradually build a personal library. Below follows a beginning list of resource books; most are available in the Koke'e Museum Shop, where volunteers who are also Hui o Laka members receive a 15% discount. You'll find many other books at the Shop which will intrigue you, including a section on Myth, Legend & Chant, as well as Contemporary Pacific Literature (great interpretive material is often buried in original source material, as well as in contemporary novels and poetry about Hawaii and the Pacific).

### **Plants**

*Ferns of Hawaii* by Kathy Valier (1995) UH Press  
*Hawaiian Heritage Plants* by Angela Kay Kepler (1998) UH Press  
*Hawaiian Forest Plants* by Mark Merlin (1995) Pacific Guide Books  
*Alteration of Native Hawaiian Vegetation* by Cuddihy and Stone  
*Hawaii's Vanishing Flora* by Kimura and Nagata (1980) Oriental Publishing Company  
*Alien Plant Invasions in Hawaiian Ecosystems* by Tunison, Stone and others  
*Plants and Flowers of Hawaii* by Sohmer and Gustafson (1993) UH Press  
*In Gardens of Hawaii* by Marie Neal (1965) Bishop Museum Press  
*Native Trees and Shrubs of the Hawaiian Islands* by Samuel H. Lamb (1981) Sunstone Press  
*Plants and Animals of Hawaii* by Susan Scott (1991) Bess Press  
*A pocket Guide to Hawaii's Trees and Shrubs* by H. Douglas Pratt (1998) Mutual Publishing  
*La'au Hawaii, Traditional Hawaiian Uses of Plants* by Isabella Aiona Abbott (1992) Bishop Museum Press  
*Na Pua o Koke'e, Field Guide to the Native Flowering Plants of Northwestern Kaua'i, with flowering calendar,* by Katie Cassel, (2005), Quaking Aspen Books.  
*Remains of a Rainbow, Rare Plants and Animals of Hawai'i,* by David Liittschwager & Susan Middleton, 2001, National Geographic.

### **History**

*Hawaii, A Natural History* by Sherwin Carlquist (1980) NTBG, SB Printers, Inc.  
*Kauai Ancient Place Names and Their Stories* by Frederick B. Wichman (1998) UH Press  
*Islands in a Far Sea* by John Cuddihy, Sierra Club  
*Kauai, A Separate Kingdom* by Edward Joesting, UH Press  
*Arts and Crafts of Hawaii* by Te Ranghi Hiroa (1987) Bishop Museum Press  
*Hawaiian Dictionary* by Mary Kawena Pukui and Samuel H. Elbert (1979) UH Press

**Interpretation**

*Interpreting Our Heritage* by Freeman Tilden (1957) Univ. of North Carolina Press

**Birds & Insects**

*Hawaii's Birds* by Audubon Society (1993) Hawaii Audubon Society  
*Hawaiian Insects and their Kin* by F.G. Howarth and W.P. Mull (1992) UH Press

**Hiking**

*Kaua'i Hiking Trails* by Craig Chisholm (1991) Fernglen Press

**Koke'e**

*The Road to Koke'e* by Thelma Hadley and Kathy Valier (1993) Bess Press