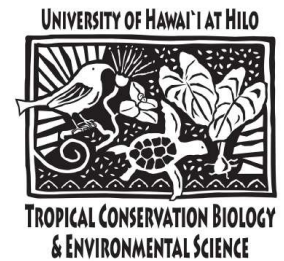


# Spring Successes!

*TCBES Semesterly Newsletter*



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Women in STEM Conference
- Important Announcements
- Student and Faculty Achievements
- Professional Internship Presentations
- Spring Thesis Defenses

## Adjusting to the new Normal

"The TCBES community has done an incredible job adapting their jobs, education, and research to the new standards of social distancing. Times are hard, but our students, faculty, and staff continue to support one another and thrive"

-Tracy Wiegner, Director of TCBES



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAI'I  
**HILO**

## Second Annual Women in STEM Conference

The theme, "Educate to Empower: Uplifting All Women in STEM," was prominent in the panel discussions and various workshops offered throughout the day. The keynote address, titled "Science is My Superpower" was delivered by Alexandra Colón Rodriguez,

a postdoctoral researcher in the B3 Laboratory at the University of California, Davis. Rodriguez, a science communicator and neurotoxicologist, hails from the island of Puerto Rico.



"We wanted to create space this year to include the voices of underrepresented indigenous women in science in both academic and community-driven organizations," says Lisa Mason, a graduate student in the TCBES program and one of the conference's organizers. "Next year we hope to have a multi-day event to further these important conversations. I am proud of so many people in our community for helping to support this event."

[Read the full article here.](#)

## Important Announcements

**The TCBES Annual Symposium** is postponed until further notice



Stay connected with us for updates on new conference dates!

*UH Foundation Account was recently established for TCBES!*

# DONATE TODAY!

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# STUDENT & FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

## Bryan Tonga, UH Hilo TCBES Graduate Student

Initiating the first comprehensive study on nearshore water quality in Micronesia

[Read the full story here](#)



## Team of UH Hilo Students

Identified an undocumented oyster species as part of a course-based undergraduate research experience led by Dr. Jolene Sutton

[Read the full story here](#)

## John Burns, Assistant Professor of Marine Science

Interviewed by Waterloop to discuss health of coral reefs in Hawai'i and globally

[Watch the Interview here](#)



## Matthew Knope, Assistant Professor of Biology

Published in *Science*, surprising findings about animal diversity and extinction

[Read the full story here](#)

## Steven Colbert, Chair & Assoc Prof of Marine Science

Interviewed in article by the *Guardian* regarding plastic pollution on Kamilo Beach

[Read the full story here](#)



## Professional Internship Presentations

Friday, May 8th  
8:15 am-3:15 pm

### 8:30 am- John Flint

Speaking Out for Conservation

### 9:15 am - Alexander Bischer

Saving Hawaii Island's Endangered Forest Birds

### 10:00 am - Amanda Irish

Invasive Plant Species Management and Lowland Wet Forest Restoration in Hawaii

### 10:45 am- Kelsey Keister

Reducing Negative Anthropogenic Interactions with Endangered Hawaiian Monk Seals

### 11:30 am- Maya Goodoni

Striving Towards a Career in Watershed Management

### 12:15 pm- Samantha DeVivo

Creating the Children's Learning Center and Gaining Experience with Aquaculture Practices

### 1:00 pm - Talavi Cook

Conserving Traditional Agroecosystems by Combining Principles of Permaculture and Pueblo Practices

### 1:45 pm- Melanie Leilā Dudley

The Importance of Pilina (relationship) with Place and Community through 'Āina Education for a More Promising Future

### 2:30 pm- Emma Delia Sinclair

Environmental Governance and Monitoring in the Pacific

**LIVESTREAM  
ON YOUTUBE**



**REGISTER ON  
ZOOM**

## Spring 2020 Thesis Defenses

### Devon Aguiar

Detection and impact of sewage pollution on South Kohala's coral reefs

### Keith Burnett

Distribution, abundance, and acoustic characteristics of Kohala forest birds

### Ryan Domingo

Applying meristem tip culture and thermotherapy to eliminate viruses from pineapple (*Ananas comosus*) and taro (*Colocasia esculenta*)

### Stephanie Gayle

Thermal dependence of *Eleutherodactylus coqui* vocalization on windward Hawaii Island

### Angalee Kirby

Are symbiotic nitrogen fixation strategies tied to invasiveness for non-native woody legumes in Hawai'i?

### Kristina Montoya-Aiona

Roosting ecology and behavior of the of the Hawaiian Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*)

### Jazmine Panelo

Spatial distribution and sources of nutrients at two coastal developments in South Kohala, Hawai'i

### Leah Sherwood

Applying object detection to monitoring plastic marine debris

## Adam Pack, Chair & Professor of Psychology

Investigating whale declines and impact of heat wave on whale behavior

[Read the full story here](#)



## Tracy Wiegner, TCBES Director & Professor of Marine Science

Quintessential University Citizen: Teaching students and communities about coastal water quality

[Read the full story here](#)

## Ryan Perroy, Associate Professor of Geography

Developing new technology to help save Hawai'i's native 'ōhi'a

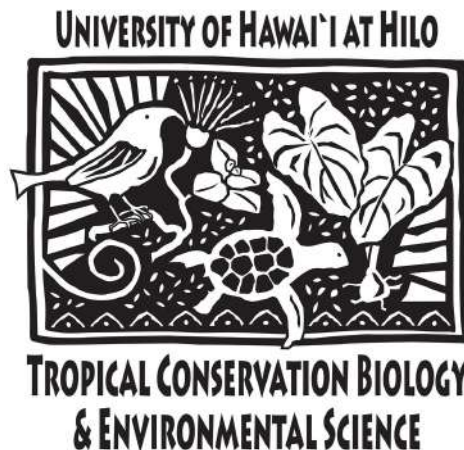
[Read the full story here](#)



## Patrick Hart, Professor of Biology

Long-term study shows Hawai'i Island forests can regenerate once cattle and pigs are fenced out

[Read the full story here](#)



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## Missed a Defense?

No worries! All completed defenses are on the TCBES YouTube Page!



[Watch them now!](#)