A Splendid Spring!

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DONATE TODAY!

UH Hilo TCBES Professional Internship Presentation Day, May 4th
Pictured (left to right): David Russell, David Girbino, Cienna-Lei Daog, Avalon Paradea, Alejandro Caamaño Barrientos, Mikayla Barnwell, Hannah Hartmann, & Lucy Chalgren

Scenes from the TCBES Symposium:
November 2022:
Pacific Island Climate Adaptation Science Center (CASC) and UH Marine Science Department host Alaska CASC scientists in Hawai'i to find common ground on climate change. Read the article here.

December 2022:
Recent TCBES graduate Hannah Hartmann helped organize Walk for Wai with Hawai'i Sierra Club in partnership with 'Oahu Water Protectors. The demonstration raised awareness about the Red Hill crisis and demanded defueling of the facility.

January 2023:
TCBES alumnus Jeff Stallman discusses his work on mushrooms and the theory of island biogeography in an ECR feature. Read the article here.

February 2023:
TCBES Faculty Margary Martin receives tenure at UH Hilo's School of Education. Read the article here.

March 2023:
UH Hilo Researchers, TCBES alumni, and a MARE alumnus investigate the impact of sewage pollution on reefs explored by UH researchers. Read the article here.

March 2023:
Researchers, led by TCBES faculty Tim Grabowski, examine pandemic-driven changes in fishery use on Hawai'i Island. Read the article here.
AGROGOREST COMMUNITY WORKDAYS
TCBES graduate student David Girbino in partnership with OK Farms and the Hawai‘i Ulu Coop has been hosting monthly community workdays at a 5-acre agroforest. On a planting day in March 2023, over 30 volunteers attended to harvest kalo, harvesting over 600 lbs of corm and 200 lbs of leaf. They also harvested over 2,000 keiki for replanting. Volunteers all went home with corm, leaf, and keiki to enjoy the fruits of their labors after a day of connecting with the ‘āina. Community workdays are typically the last Saturday of each month. Sign up here if you are interested in participating.

HUMPBACK WHALE RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTED IN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
Adam Pack, Chair and Professor of Psychology, had his collaborative research on humpback whales and climate change, which appears in the PBS South Florida documentary film, “Vanishing Whales,” featured at the 2023 International Ocean Film Festival in April in San Francisco, CA. The findings of Pack and his collaborators, Drs. Joseph Mobley, Mark Deakos and Guilherme Bortolotto, were recently published in the paper, "Aerial survey perspectives on humpback whale resiliency in Maui Nui, Hawai‘i, in the face of an unprecedented North Pacific marine warming event," in the journal Marine Mammal Science.

KAIAMEAOLA CLUB HOSTS TCBES SYMPOSIUM
The 13th Annual TCBES Symposium was held on March 30 and 31 with the theme of “Restoring Relationships, Mauka to Makai”. The keynote speakers, Ku‘ulei Keakealani, Cultural Director of Hui Aloha Kiholo and Jen Lawson, Executive Director of Wai‘kōloa Dry Forest Initiative, gave inspiring talks on cultivating pilina in a number of different contexts. The days were filled with presentations on them many groundbreaking projects being conducted within our community. If you would like to view the presentations, please visit the TCBES YouTube site.

CORAL RESTORATION ON ST. CROIX
In February of 2023, TCBES graduate student Mikayla Barnwell traveled to St. Croix in the U.S Virgin Islands to work with The Nature Conservancy's USVI team for a week long coral restoration learning exchange. She helped them outplant over 1000 fragments of Staghorn coral as well as do some basic husbandry and micro fragmentation at their on land coral nursery.
Congratulations

Graduating students!

Mikayla Barnwell
« Developing place-based coral restoration in West Hawai‘i: A guide to planning and implementation »
Mentor & Organization: Julia Rose, The Nature Conservancy, Hawai‘i and Palmyra

Alejandro Caamaño Barrientos
« Implementing sustainable methods for seafood production with Blue Ocean Mariculture »
Mentor & Organization: Federico Rotman, Blue Ocean Mariculture

Lucy Chalgren
« Place-based science communication methods in Hawai‘i: Social media to student curriculum »
Mentors & Organizations: Anya Tagawa, ʻImiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai‘i, & Dr. Katie Abrams, Colorado State University

Cienna-Lei Kuʻulileialohaiwiliʻia Daog
« Evaluating the native fish species of Āhole (Kuhlia xenura) as a substitute for introduced species in aquaculture »

Hannah Hartmann
« Aligning with fungi to heal the ‘āina and huli the system »
Mentor & Organization: Wayne Tanaka, Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, & Maki Morinoue, HuliPAC

David Girbino
« As above, so below: Envisioning food forestry and indigenous microorganism networks as foundations of Hawaiian food sovereignty »
Mentors & Organizations: Aja Grande, Pahoehoe LLC; Kyle Jackson & Dana Shapiro, The Hawai‘i ‘Ulu Cooperative; & Susan Schultz, Ancient Leaf Tea.

Stephanie Mladinich
« Pockets and pathways to invasion: Developing improved mosquito monitoring methods in high elevation forests on Hawai‘i Island »
Thesis Advisor: Patrick Hart

Avalon Dawn Paradea
« Nā Pilina ‘Āina: Relationships between the communities and environments of Kohala Hema, Kona ‘Akau, and beyond »
Mentors & Organizations: Lauren Kurpita, The Nature Conservancy, Hawai‘i and Palmyra; Jill Wagner, Joseph Rock Arboretum; & Dr. Kathryn Besio, UH Hilo

Missed a Defense or Presentation?
No worries!
All completed defenses are on the TCBES YouTube channel & the Spring 2023 presentations are coming soon!

Watch them here!

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TCBES's UH Foundation

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Graduating students continued

Casey Anuhea Robins
« ‘O Ke Kahua Ma Mua, Ma Hope Ke Kūkulu: Investigating the relationship between the functional traits of leaf litter and litter-dwelling arthropods »
Thesis Advisor: Becky Ostertag

David M. K. Russell
« Understanding plants of the past to inform community reforestation efforts in the future: A place-based approach for promoting resilience in the Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a community-based subsistence forest area, North Kona, Hawai‘i »
Mentors & Organizations: Jonathan Price, UH Hilo, & Christian Giardina, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry

News From Other Departments

STUDENTS PRESENT RESEARCH AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY SEAFARING WORKSHOP
In January 2023, UH Hilo anthropologist Joe Genz brought three students to Stanford University for a workshop on seafaring. There, the students presented their research on the oral histories of Marshallese and Yapese voyaging. Read the article here.

NEW COURSE TEACHES KULEANA AND THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY
A new Interdisciplinary Studies class encourages students to deepen their pilina (relationships) with the Hilo community. Students learn about Hawai‘i through mālama ‘āina activities and by exploring wahi pana (storied places). Learn more about the class here.

PHARMACY STUDENTS PRESENT NANOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH
Three students presented their research on using nanotechnology to investigate antibacterial activity of poha berry extract at a statewide symposium in April. Read more here.