

For Immediate Release

Contact: Janis Wong
Media Relations, The Kohala Center
jwong@kohalacenter.org
direct: 808-325-1114, office: 808-887-6411

Love the beach? Volunteer at Kahalu‘u Bay!

KAMUELA, Hawai‘i—July 20, 2015—The ReefTeach and Citizen Science programs at Kahalu‘u Bay and Beach Park are looking for volunteers who love the beach and want to help protect the bay and its coral reefs, fish, and turtles.

[ReefTeach](#) volunteers are “ambassadors of aloha” who welcome visitors and residents to the park. The volunteers teach visitors proper reef etiquette and help them identify fish, turtles, and invertebrates in the bay. With more than 400,000 people visiting Kahalu‘u Bay each year, the health of the bay’s corals and marine life depends on ReefTeachers who educate swimmers and snorkelers on how to enjoy the bay without harming its vibrant marine life.

[Citizen Science](#) volunteers monitor and track environmental conditions at Kahalu‘u Bay by collecting weekly samples at specific sites. These data help to track the health of the bay, understand how events such as algae blooms impact water quality and the bay’s overall health, and act to correct any problems before they impact Kahalu‘u’s vibrant and colorful marine life.

Anyone with an interest in learning about water quality, sampling, data interpretation, and a healthier environment can be a Citizen Science volunteer — no previous experience or scientific knowledge is required. Training is provided.

To learn more or to sign up for either program, contact Cindi Punihaole, cpunihaole@kohalacenter.org or (808) 887-6411.

ReefTeach and Citizen Science are programs of the [Kahalu‘u Bay Education Center](#) (KBEC), a partnership between [The Kohala Center](#) and the County of Hawai‘i. KBEC promotes environmental stewardship to ensure the bay remains a healthy and welcoming place for residents and visitors alike.

-30-