

AmeriCorps State

As part of the movement to end educational inequity in Hawai'i, Teach For America recruits, selects, and trains teachers who are committed to seeing students from all backgrounds achieve in school and in life. With extensive training and support, AmeriCorps members work to ensure that children growing up in poverty-impacted communities are provided the educational opportunities they deserve. Every year Hawaii has teacher shortages and Teach for America helps to fill these gaps with dedicated, trained teachers. This is possible because of the support received from AmeriCorps. Teach for America trains more teachers for low-income communities than any other institution in the country. Unlike traditional teacher training programs or school districts, Teach for America measures the academic growth of each corps members' students using internal metrics and holds teachers accountable for their students' progress in real-time throughout their teaching commitment. This data is used to continuously adjust admissions, training, and support models to consistently increase the measurable impact of our members on their students' achievement.

With 230 AmeriCorps members, Kupu is Hawaii's largest AmeriCorps program. AmeriCorps members carry out a range of activities including watershed management, threatened and endangered species restoration, invasive species removal, coastal restoration, wetland rehabilitation, trail maintenance, cultural and environmental education, cultural site restoration, environmental education, and volunteer leadership and recruitment. Other key components to programming include job preparedness, life skills training, environmental education, and most recently training in sustainability areas such as renewable energy and sustainable agriculture. In one year, Kupu AmeriCorps members served more than 152,757 hours, cleared 8,713 acres, and mobilized 11,353 volunteers who served nearly 70,000 hours.

AmeriCorps VISTA

The AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associate program offers individuals the opportunity to become involved in their local communities for several weeks during June through August. This past year, 78 VISTA Summer Associates helped plan and deliver summertime activities at the Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii, the Ionia County Intermediate School District, and seven other nonprofits and schools across the state. Activities included a middle-school STEM camp, a youth leadership camp, high school interns, the USDA Summer Food Service Program, the IM Kids 3rd Meal Program, summer-learning loss prevention programs, and community gardens. In summer 2014, 54 Associates, many of them recent high school graduates, helped implement Summer Bridge programs statewide for incoming high school freshmen. The Summer Bridge program eases the transition of incoming high school students in math, language arts, and study skills. Associates reevaluated and refined the project implementation calendar, conducted community outreach and enlisted community resources to bolster the program, consulted with incoming freshmen about transition and the expectations associated with completion of the project, and created binders with information needed for students to successful transition to high school.

The Hawaiian Community Assets "Building Stability in Housing" AmeriCorps VISTA Project has greatly enhanced the organization's capacity to expand the reach and success of anti-poverty programs focused on affordable housing and financial literacy in Native Hawaiian communities. The VISTA members develop tools and resources to support effective partnerships, outreach, and evaluation processes in order to more effectively serve a greater number of families in need. In 2014, VISTA members served with community-based partners across the state, developing tools and systems that enabled Hawaiian Community Assets (HCA) to provide many more individuals with financial literacy and housing resources. This past year, HCA provided financial literacy services to more than 300 individuals, which resulted in 93 families securing or sustaining permanent housing. In addition, HCA trained 50 landlords for the Rapid Rehousing and Rapid Transition Program and provided 37 individuals with post-purchase homeowners' services. VISTA members also created foreclosure training manuals, and VISTA member John Malone wrote and secured a \$120,000 Google AdGrant to promote the HCA's free, HUD-certified financial and housing education programs.

AmeriCorps NCCC

An AmeriCorps NCCC team served with the State of Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife during the summer of 2014. The team worked entirely on projects preserving the native habitat of Hawaii. Corps members removed invasive species, replanted native plants, and widened three miles of hiking trail. In addition, the team cleared eight campsites for public use at Peacock Flats Campground and installed eight waterbars to prevent trail erosion during the frequent rainstorms. AmeriCorps NCCC members also had the unique opportunity to remove predatory Wolf Snails in order to preserve the state's natural habitat. Corps members assisted Hawaii Conservation Alliance with their 22nd annual conservation conference. Members supported the event by timing presentations, assisting with set up and break down, and monitoring each session. This was the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources first time sponsoring an AmeriCorps NCCC team.

Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

The Hawaii Foster Grandparent Program sponsored by the State of Hawaii Department of Human Services has developed a strong partnership with the University of Hawaii P-3 Initiative. The Hawaii P-3 Initiative program staff will be conducting monthly in-service trainings for all Foster Grandparent Program volunteers covering the five domains of child development. The Foster Grandparent program has also continued a strong partnership with the Executive Office on Early Learning. The FGP project is now in discussion with the office and its partners to develop programming to support students at some of the new pre-kindergarten classrooms across the state. Current discussions are focused on how Foster Grandparents could be trained in specific creative curriculum, aligned with specific student outcomes, to use in their 1-to-1 interaction with students. This creative curriculum would be tied to specific outcomes to measure student progress over the course of the year and the relationship with the Foster Grandparent Volunteer.

Senior Corps RSVP

Twenty-five County of Maui RSVP Volunteers served in the Meals on Wheels Program. During the program year, 97,741 meals were served to 611 older adults allowing them to remain living independently in their own homes. The RSVP Volunteers increased the capacity of the Meals on Wheels Program to serve many more older adult clients. The program reported that they were able to serve 100 percent of the older adults that were referred for Meals on Wheels services. In addition, 100 percent of the Meals on Wheels clients were able to remain living independently in their own homes during the program year.

Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

The Hawaii Senior Companion Program, sponsored by the State of Hawaii Department of Human Services, is helping make independence a reality for older adults in Hawaii. Senior Companion volunteers enhance their own health and social engagement by providing services such as respite, companionship and other assistance to support independent living for older adults with mobility and self-care limitations. In 2014, 84 Senior Companions served over 200 older adults, providing necessary support to enhance the clients' ability to better manage their activities of daily living and remain independent in their own homes. In addition, Senior Companions provided respite services to 67 caregivers of older adults.