



Hawai'i Volcanoes News Release

December 18, 2008

SCA Volunteers Committed to Protecting Park's Backcountry



Nainoa Keanaaina and Adam Kojima answer hikers' questions

Keanaaina and Kojima were hired through the Student Conservation Association (SCA) whose motto is to "change lives through service to nature." As SCA interns, they patrolled trails, checked backcountry permits, helped with resource management projects, provided wilderness and safety education, assisted with search and rescues, and conducted campsite inventories.

Keanaaina is from Kona and recently graduated from Pacific University, Oregon with a degree in Environmental Studies. He is interested in becoming a National Park Ranger and says that he "wants to utilize his education to help visitors understand the value of all National Parks to this and future generations." Keanaaina was recently hired as a paid Backcountry Ranger for six months under the National Park Service Centennial Project.

Kojima is from O'ahu and has completed a Bachelors degree in Biology, also from Pacific University. Kojima (who was also a volunteer for the park's turtle program in 2007) will be attending the University of

Among all the volunteers that have made a significant contribution to Hawai'i Volcanoes, two stand out for their dedication to safeguarding the park's magnificent wilderness.

According to their supervisor, Park Ranger John Broward, "Nainoa Keanaaina and Adam Kojima were invaluable this past summer in protecting backcountry resources and visitors while engaged in a diverse and exciting range of duties."

Keanaaina and Kojima were hired through the Student Conservation

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Hawaii at Manoa to work on a Masters degree in zoology. He is interested in working in the field of marine management and protection upon completion of his advanced degree.

Keanaaina and Kojima agree that their time in the park has been one of the most important experiences of their life. They consider their SCA internship to have been a valuable tool in helping them with their future careers. They have a deep sense of satisfaction in knowing how much they have contributed to the protection of Hawai'i Volcanoes.

The Student Conservation Association recruits, screens, and occasionally funds positions to help the National Park Service and other land management agencies with resource protection projects. Volunteers such as Keanaaina and Kojima apply for internships with SCA. The organization usually receives more than one-hundred applications for the positions at Hawai'i Volcanoes. The applications are screened, reduced in number to about thirty, and forwarded to the park's backcountry coordinator in the division of resource protection.

Once hired by the park, SCA provides the intern with a weekly stipend of \$75 and transportation to and from Hawai'i. The park provides housing. This year, a \$3,500 donation from the Hawai'i Natural History Association to SCA allowed the park to have two interns, instead of one.

In return, the intern spends from late May to the middle of September working as a non-law enforcement ranger. During their summer at the park, they will spend up to four days at a time in the backcountry, hiking hundreds of miles of trails through pristine wilderness and rugged backcountry from sea level to nearly fourteen thousand feet. They also help in the Kilauea Visitor Center and receive training in Search and Rescue, Emergency Medical Services, Leave No Trace ethics, and wilderness stewardship.

"For some interns, it is a life-changing experience," adds Broward. "And just as important as the experience they receive is the service they provide to the park and its visitors who benefit from their positive attitude and dedication to make the park a better place for this and future generations."

For more information on the [Student Conservation Association](#), go to their web site at www.thesca.org

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