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NOAA's Education Partnership Program benefits La'ie wetlands habitat restoration

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (sanctuary) is sponsoring a "NOAA's Education Partnership Program" intern this summer. Molly Borsom will be working with Maui sanctuary staff. Molly is a senior this year at UH Hilo and majoring in Marine Science and will be pursuing a graduate degree in marine conservation. She will spend the summer working on the La'ie wetlands habitat restoration project.

The La'ie wetlands habitat restoration project is a community-based and County of Maui partnership effort under Community Work Day Program (CWD) and funded in part by a grant from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. The primary goal of the project is to restore and shift the habitat from non-native to native species, increase desirable nesting habitat for Maui's native and endangered water birds and migratory shorebirds, improve water flows and retention capacity in the wetland, increase educational and recreation opportunities for the public, and guide future management and use of the area.

The project is a collaborative effort led by CWD in partnership with the County of Maui, state and federal agencies including NOAA's Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, and community organizations.

Molly will be working with CWD to develop monitoring protocols and trainings that will engage volunteers and the visitors industry with educational opportunities as part of its restoration work. Molly will also be implementing the sanctuary's water quality monitoring program at the La'ie Wetlands and training volunteers to continue the testing on weekly basis.

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On the Web:

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary:
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