ECOLOGY PROJECT
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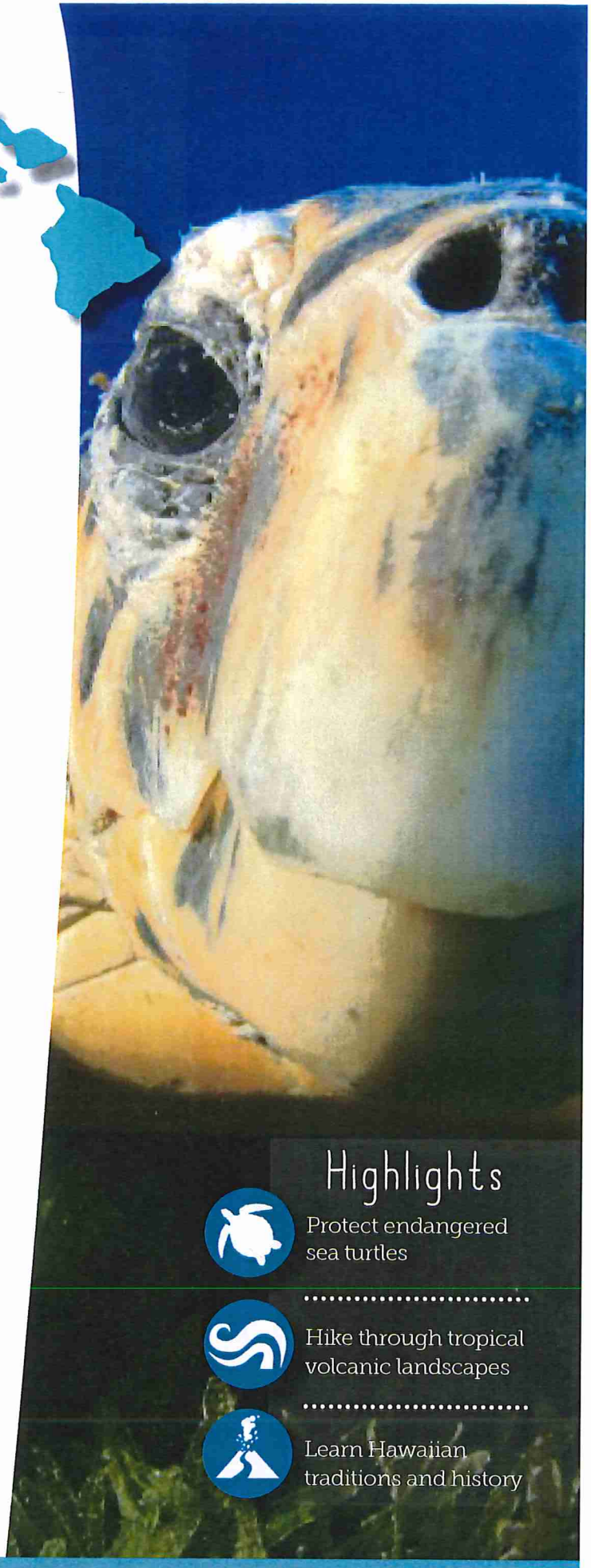
HAWAII ECOLOGY PROGRAM



E Komo Mai: As one of the most remote island chains in the world, Hawaii harbors hundreds of species that exist nowhere else on Earth. For 15 centuries, native Hawaiian culture thrived here with traditions of resource management that maintained biodiversity while also providing abundant food, water, and shelter for the local population. Present-day Hawaii, however, faces significant ecological challenges that threaten the health of its ecosystems for future generations. That's where your work begins.

Your Field Work: This course will immerse you in the incredible natural beauty of Hawaii and give you the tools to address critical conservation and restoration issues. Your work will be informed by science and a deep connection to place. You'll assist researchers with sea turtle recovery efforts and work to understand how federal endangered species mandates are implemented at the state and county level.

By conducting fish surveys while snorkeling, you'll contribute data to a community-led conservation project that is changing the way people interact with and perceive the natural resources at their doorstep. You'll learn about the historic ridge-to-reef *(ahupua'a)* concept of resource management that has successfully guided the work of dozens of previous generations of islanders.

Aloha 'āina: The challenges facing Hawaii are not unique. Threats from a changing climate, fresh water resource depletion, species extinction, pollution, and over-fishing are critical issues across the globe. But the unique environmental and human landscapes of Hawaii combine to give you a powerful opportunity to engage conservation issues within a cultural context that exists nowhere else on Earth.

Length	Research Hours	Coursework	Focus
9 days	15+	40+ hours	island and marine ecology, conservation

Highlights

- Protect endangered sea turtles
- Hike through tropical volcanic landscapes
- Learn Hawaiian traditions and history

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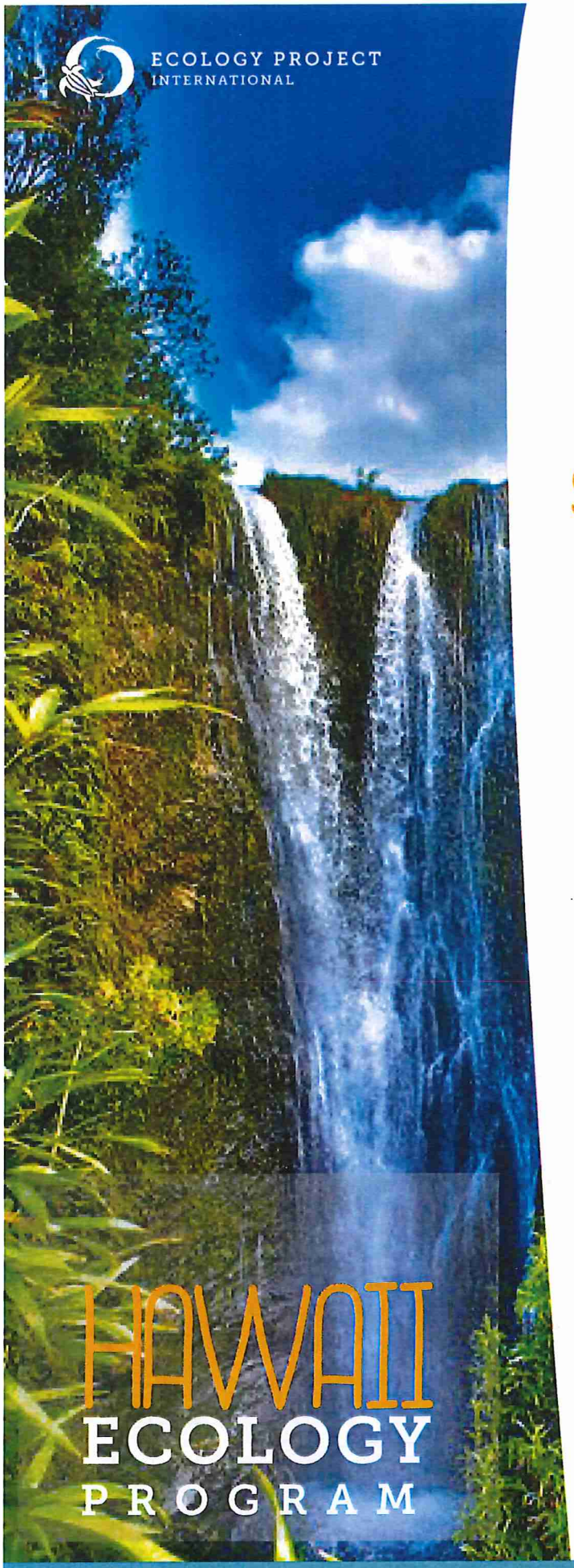

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Sample Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive on Maui

- Fly into Kahului Airport and meet your EPI instructor team

Days 2-3: Snorkeling & Marine Life Research

- Practice your snorkel skills on West Maui's rich reef ecosystem and learn the local fish species
- Collect conservation data on fish species while snorkeling
- Participate in reef restoration activities

Day 4: Restoration Project & Cultural Exchange

- Travel upland to one of West Maui's historic agricultural valleys
- Rebuild rock terrace taro patches (*lo'i kalo)* and meet local high school students to learn about life on the island

Days 5-6: Sea Turtle Surveys

- Conduct in-water snorkel transects with Hawaii Wildlife Fund
- Camp on the beach and take turns searching for nesting female hawksbills at night
- Monitor nests to document eruptions and assist hatchlings

Day 7: Coastal Dunes & Wetlands Refuge

- Camp at a wildlife refuge on Maui's lush north-west coast
- Learn how ancient Hawaiians developed the most advanced aquaculture practices in the Pacific by helping to restore a traditional fish pond (*loko i'a)*

Day 8: Haleakala National Park

- Depart camp early and drive up to the summit of Haleakala volcano at 10,000 feet above sea level
- Hike down into the volcanic crater and experience a breathtaking cinder desert ecosystem

Day 9: Depart for Home