



Hawai‘i Island Volunteer Guide 2024

On behalf of our Hawai‘i Wildlife Fund team, mahalo nui loa for your interest, support, time and energy! Here on Hawai‘i Island, we focus primarily on **marine debris removal, coastal ecosystem restoration and environmental education activities**. Our work is hands-on and dirty, and we are excited to share the experience with you! To get you prepared for your time with us, we have a little information to share about what to expect.

Where we go: Our field sites are remote, requiring either 4WD vehicles or a pair of legs. Because we are off the beaten path, please remember that there are no services or flushing toilets. We do provide WAG bags for those times when nature calls and requires more than the bush or tree to relieve yourself, and of course we are equipped with hand sanitizer.

What to bring: Not only are our field sites remote, but they tend to be sunny, hot, and windy. **Sun and wind protection** will be your best friend on your work day, so please bring a hat (that won't blow off), sunglasses (polarized are recommended for the best reefscape view), and of course **reef-safe sunscreen**. If you are unsure if your favorite sunscreen is reef safe (or what reef-safe sunscreen even is), have a look at [this great resource](#) from Save The Reef. Of course, we will have back-up sunscreen for you if time or budget does not allow, or if you forget. We also recommend SPF clothing, especially a long-sleeved shirt, to protect your skin. Please bring **close-toed shoes** (hiking on lava rocks all day is not ideal for flip-flopped-feet). There are no shops, gas stations or restaurants where we are headed, so pack yourself a nourishing **lunch and enough snacks** to carry you through the day. Don't forget your refillable water bottle to stay hydrated!

Please also remember: The environments that we work in are ecologically and biologically sensitive and culturally important to community members. We are dedicated to protecting and preserving Hawai‘i's native plant and animal species, and ask that you do your part to prevent accidental invasive species introductions. Please clean your shoes/boots/tabis before arriving to ensure you are not bringing any additional seeds to our coastal ecosystems.

We will provide: There is nothing better than ice water on a hot work day, so once you finish your personal water stash, you can refill your bottles with our ice water (**please BYO-bottle**). We want you to stay hydrated! Dehydration happens quickly in the heat/sun and wind. We bring enough gloves for everyone (although if you have your favorite pair, of course bring them) and encourage you to wear them when touching marine debris. We will have more than enough trash bags and perhaps a friendly canine companion or two! HWF will also provide a first-aid kit and most of our team are trained in FA, CPR, and even lifeguarding to help keep you safe ... but our workdays are *not* risk free. Please read and acknowledge our HWF Volunteer's Risk Waiver before joining us for a workday!

We look forward to getting to know you, sharing stories together, and perpetuating mālama ‘āina practices with you!

If you have any more questions, please email us at kahakai.cleanup@gmail.com or call us at 808-769-7629 (our HWF Hawai‘i Island Debris Hotline). You can also reach our Hawai‘i Island Program Director, Megan directly at 808-217-5777 (call / text). Looking for volunteer opps with HWF on Maui? Please contact us at info@wildhawaii.org!