

Knauss Fellowship Awarded to University of Hawai'i Graduate Student

Paulo Maurin, a University of Hawai'i Sea Grant-funded graduate student, was awarded a highly-competitive John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship to begin in early 2008. He will join an elite class of Fellows who will convene in Washington, D.C. to work for one year on national and international policy related to ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

Along with other top graduate students from around the nation, the Knauss Fellowship will provide Maurin with a unique opportunity to further his understanding of the complex dynamics involved in the management of marine resources. Maurin will be placed in the Executive branch of the US government in a federal agency such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of Interior, or the National Science Foundation, and will work hand-in-hand with cutting-edge scientists and policy makers. Other Fellows will be working directly in the Legislative branch in either the House or Senate, and will be intimately involved with legislation affecting the Nation's marine and coastal areas.

Maurin is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Communications and Information Sciences from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. His dissertation research, entitled Information Exchanges among Hawai'i's Marine Stakeholders, examines the interactions among stakeholder groups in three distinct locations throughout the state, and how these groups partner with government officials to manage their local marine resources. He has been studying the surfacing and resolution of conflicts when interests and perceptions collide among different marine stakeholders, and is particularly interested in the interaction, identity and affiliation of each stakeholder group. Through his research he



discovered that the participatory process in the allocation of marine resources has grown with an increasingly active and informed citizenry, and in turn, has affected how the local and state governments operate and respond to stakeholder groups.

"I am honored to be the representing Hawai'i as the recipient of the Knauss fellowship" noted Maurin. "The hands-on experience at the federal level will be a great complement to my graduate education here, as well as help to shape my work path beyond the fellowship."

The Knauss Fellowship was established in 1979 and was named in honor of one of Sea Grant's founders, John A. Knauss. For more information on this or other fellowships offered by Sea Grant, please log on to the National Sea Grant Web site: www.seagrants.noaa.gov.

