

Extension View

Extension Agents Serving Hawai'i's Coastal Communities

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program connects research and outreach, delivering the most up-to-date information to our island communities. Our scientists study pressing local issues and produce real results, then our extension faculty translates that research into useful information for a myriad of audiences. This column regularly highlights the important work done by our extension faculty on your behalf.



Since its launch in 2004, the UH Sea Grant Center for Smart Building and Community Design (CSBCD), has enlisted several exceptional team members with a range of experience

in sustainable planning, development, and community issues. As the newest member of this team, Olwen Huxley not only brings her extensive knowledge in sustainability and environmental policy to UH Sea Grant but her dedication and endurance as a world-class athlete as well.

Born in Cambridge, England, Huxley moved to the United States in 1987. She earned her bachelor's degree with honors in the History of Science from Harvard-Radcliffe College and her master's degree in Environmental Studies from Boston University.

Huxley's first introduction to Sea Grant was as a master's student when she interned at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Sea Grant. There she worked with MIT Sea Grant Director, Dr. Cliff Goudey, to prepare an aquaculture feasibility analysis for a planned urban project. After earning her master's degree, Huxley pursued an array of intensive professional experience in Silver Spring, Maryland and Washington, D.C. for federal and governmental agencies including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the

Northeast Midwest Congressional Coalition, and the House Committee on Science.

In September 2006, Huxley joined UH Sea Grant as a CSBCD professional staff member. In addition to being a dedicated full-time member of the UH Sea Grant team, Huxley is a full-time triathlete who has become adept at implementing her daily training regime to complement her heavy work schedule. In fact, Huxley has integrated her commitment to the goals of UH Sea Grant and CSBCD with her commitment to physical endurance in a unique and effective way.

After achieving 4th place in her division at the Ironman Florida triathlon in 2006, Huxley qualified for a position in the 2007 Ironman World Championships held in Kailua-Kona. It occurred to her that athletes sometimes use the opportunity of a crowning event in their careers to raise money for a good cause, and her participation in Ironman Kona was an opportunity to do just that. In response, she established the UH Mānoa Campus Energy/Sustainability Fund and began accepting pledges. Huxley's efforts earned \$3000 for her newly established fund which will pay for equipment and enough compact fluorescent light bulbs to save UH thousands of dollars a year in energy costs. This unprecedented proactive approach to energy conservation at UH will hopefully inspire individuals as well as organizations on the UH Mānoa campus to take an active role in campus energy reduction systemwide. With her passion for this issue and boundless energy and enthusiasm, it is difficult to not be inspired by her.

