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Nature park prepares to lure guests

By Diana Nomura

HAWAII KAI — Hawaii's first marine life conservation district is celebrating 40 years of state stewardship by offering various summer events.

Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve and Education Program, which is part of the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program, will present two major community events that will allow it to interact with people in the community.

"It's summertime, and the Hanauma Bay Preserve typically is pretty busy during the summer," stated Shawn Carrier, outreach education coordinator of Hanauma Bay Education Program. "The reason we do (the events) is just to raise the community awareness about Hawaii's marine resources."

Next month's event at Hanauma Bay — scheduled from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, July 28 — will feature guest speakers from organizations that are involved with research education or conservation of Hawaii's reef. They will present information and provide interactive activities for the community.

Then on Saturday, Aug. 11, the program will recognize all participating organizations and showcase community



Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve manager Alan Hong, at left, and his team of education specialists, Elizabeth Kumabe Maynard and Shawn Carrier, are putting on a summer's worth of activities at the park that aim to educate both residents and tourists about marine life conservation.

Diana Nomura photo

CORAL RULES

July is Coral Reefs Month, with events happening every Thursday from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

July 5: "Ecological Impact of Snowflake Coral in Hawaii and the Feasibility of Using Nudibranchs as a Biological Control Agent"

July 12: "Coral Spawning"

July 19: "Coral Reef Assessment and Monitoring Program and the Spatial Patterns of Coral Reefs in Hawaii"

July 26: "Relationships between Corals and Micro-organisms"

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photos, experiences, and artwork by local children. Both events will offer crafts and activities for children of all ages.

"We're actually going to have this evening to recognize all the hard work that the many organizations, Department of Land and Natural Resources and Friends of Hanauma Bay have put in to make Hanauma Bay the special place that it is," shared Carrier, who has been with the education program for about five years.

In addition to the summer events, the program's Thursday evening lecture series addresses a number of Hawaii's marine environmental resources, including coral reefs, humpback whales and alien species, each month.

Speakers from the Hawaiian Institute of Marine Biology and University of Hawaii-Manoa inform guests of the various ongoing issues in the marine world. These hour-long lectures, which occur throughout the year, begin at 6:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

Hanauma Bay Education Program sees approximately 140 volunteers pass through the program every year, and also boasts about 100 core volunteers who are essential to the education program.

"It's such a large task we have here that we certainly don't do it ourselves," explained Elizabeth Kumabe Maynard, education program leader of Hanauma Bay Education Program.

The Hanauma Bay Education Program is also requesting the community's help in celebrating its 40-year stewardship anniversary. The program is looking for photos of Hanauma Bay, favorite experiences there, and artwork by local children expressing how they view Hanauma Bay.

Materials should include name and contact info and be submitted no later than July 28. Send mail to The Hanauma Bay Education Program, Attention Shawn Carrier, Outreach Specialist, 100 Hanauma Bay Road, Honolulu, Hawaii 96825, or e-mail to hanauma@hawaii.edu.

For more information, call the Hanauma Bay Education Center at 397-5840 or send e-mail to hanauma@hawaii.edu.

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