Gainfully Employed

As science majors, SOEST graduates are well positioned for employment in a variety of meaningful careers in Hawai‘i, on the mainland, and internationally. Additionally, many have completed graduate degrees (MS, MA, PhD, JD and MD) and continue to make discoveries and impact lives. Below is a sampling of jobs and careers currently held by undergraduate alumni from Hawai‘i and the Pacific.

Bachelor of Science in Meteorology

Meteorologist, U.S. Air Force
Meteorologist, National Weather Service
Transportation Specialist, Aloha Air Cargo
Founder, SARAU Distributors

Bachelor of Arts in Geology and Bachelor of Science in Geology & Geophysics

Geologist, Yogi-Kwong Engineers
Geologist, AECOM
Hydrologist, Department of Land & Natural Resources
Hydrologic Technician, U.S. Geological Survey
Extension Agent, UH Sea Grant College Program
Park Ranger, Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park
Owner, TerraKai Solutions
GIS Specialist, R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates
Math and Science teachers at all levels
Geoscience Curriculum Assistant, University of Hawai‘i
Research Assistant, University of Hawai‘i

Bachelor of Science in Global Environmental Science

Scientist, United Nations Renewable Energy Department
Engineer, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard
Social Scientist, Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawai‘i
Environmental Scientist, URS
Environmental Scientist, Myounghee Noh and Associates
Environmental Scientist, Environmental Science International
Planner, Department of Land & Natural Resources
Research Analyst, University of Washington
Educational Technology Specialist, NOAA

The Value of Internships

Internships are bridges between academic achievements and professional employment. They provide students with valuable experiences to explore and compare professions. While experience does not guarantee employment after graduation, students discover that their internship provides an edge with locating future employment opportunities and establishes a foundation for networking. Past internships include:

KITV4 News (HI)
National Weather Service Forecasting Offices; Honolulu (HI), Oxnard (CA)
National Weather Service Pacific Regional Headquarter (HI)
US Geological Survey Pacific Islands Water Science Center (HI)
US Geological Survey Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HI)
Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NASA (CA)
Lunar & Planetary Institute, NASA (TX)
US Natural Park Services, Cleveland (OH)
Hawai‘i Space Grant Consortium (HI)
Oceanic Institute (HI)
Center for Microbial Oceanography: Research & Education (HI)
Oceanic Analytical Laboratory (HI)
Energy Industries Inc. (HI)

Contact Us

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Jeremy Kimura  
**Hydrologist**  
Commission on Water Resource and Management  
The Commission on Water Resource Management was created to ensure that Hawai‘i’s fresh waters are shared and used responsibly. My job requires me to collect data about fresh water in Hawai‘i and translate it into protection and management measures.

My BS in Geology and Geophysics provided me with a great foundation to investigate Hawai‘i’s unique environments and ecosystems. Through my classes I gained valuable understanding of Hawai‘i’s unique geology and the nature and occurrences of Hawai‘i’s water resources and am able to relate them to my daily work.

**Tips:** When we were freshmen and sophomores, many of my fellow alumni and I had no idea what our job would be. But it is important to have an idea of what interests you. As you attend classes in pursuit of your interests, you’ll learn how to methodically apply yourself toward solving problems and obstacles. Eventually you’ll find that there are problems you like solving, and that’s when you’ll figure out how to get paid to solve these problems.

Tracy Saguido  
**Geologist & GIS Specialist**  
AECOM  
I work on federal and state environmental cleanup investigations across Hawai‘i, the Pacific, and the Far East. The work involves managing and supporting environmental projects ranging from fuel and oil spills to the operation of active remediation/removal systems to asbestos abatement. I also evaluate the potential impacts of contaminants to human health and the environment (soil, sediment, water, and air).

The GG program has prepared me for my job through hands-on experiences in the field, collection of real data using various technologies and tools, the field findings/observations, and the final report writing. Almost all of the environmental projects I have been involved in have these elements. These courses helped give me a strong start to my career.

**Tips:** Participate in an internship program. You will obtain hands-on experiences in the field you’re pursuing and get an idea for whether that particular area is a good fit for you. I was fortunate to have worked for a company while I was a student and it provided me with relevant industry experience. This gave me an advantage to finding a job immediately following graduation as many graduates did not have industry experience.

Elinor Lutu-McMoore  
**Meteorologist**  
National Weather Service  
As a meteorologist at the Weather Service Office in Pago Pago, American Samoa, I am responsible for issuing daily weather forecasts for all of the American Samoan islands and coastal waters and issuing timely weather watches, warnings and/or advisories to alert residents and mariners of any hazardous weather that may affect life and property. I also work on marine and climate programs and perform outreach activities that contribute toward American Samoas’s continuous goal of being a “Weather-Ready Nation.”

My degree program in meteorology definitely prepared me for my career. The lessons learned from courses were invaluable as were the helpful professors and staff whose goal is student success. The strong partnership with the NWS Honolulu Forecast Office was a vital component toward my transition to becoming a meteorologist for the National Weather Service.

**Tips:** 1) Utilize the advice and guidance of your academic advisor; 2) Formulate working relationships with peers; 3) Time management is key to surviving college life and completing the program successfully; 4) Utilize professors, graduate students, meteorologists at the NWS Honolulu Forecast Office. Just about everyone has already gone through what you are doing through and will provide you with resources and knowledge for your journey to becoming a meteorologist.

Brenner Wai  
**Sea-Going/Molecular Biology Technician**  
Center for Microbial Oceanography: Research & Education (C-MORE)  
My responsibilities primarily include going out to sea, collecting water samples, and analyzing the samples back in the laboratory.

Both my BS in Global Environmental Science and MS in Oceanography have prepared me well for my daily responsibilities as well as with biotechnology, environmental consulting, and fisheries management. SOEST graduates do all kinds of cool stuff in their professional and personal lives.

**Tips:** My best advice for students is to do internships. Work experience is attractive to future employers and enables you try out a particular career before immersing yourself fully into it. It is better to understand what you like and don’t like early on to save yourself lots of trouble later on. It is also important to ask a lot of questions and to ask for help when you need it.

Haunani Kane  
**PhD Candidate**  
SOEST, University of Hawai‘i  
I just completed my MS in Geology & Geophysics where I worked with local wetland managers to investigate how coastal wetlands in Hawai‘i may be impacted by sea-level rise. I received a BS in Global Environmental Science in the Department of Oceanography, and I am currently pursuing my PhD in Geology & Geophysics. My undergraduate degree provided a foundation in math and ocean sciences that greatly helped me in graduate school. Although the classes were tough they pushed and challenged me to work hard toward the end goal. I think one of the greatest things about my undergraduate years was the relationships I made with both the students and the faculty. A few of my classmates and professors continue to provide support and guidance in my graduate studies.

**Tips:** At times it can be challenging to balance the course load, research, and family life but it is all definitely worth it. Graduate school provides you the freedom to work on topics that interest you personally, culturally, and challenge you mentally. No matter how hard it may seem don’t give up! Also don’t just take a class to pass.

Genki Kino  
**Meteorologist**  
National Weather Service  
My meteorology degree program definitely prepared me for my job. By learning the physics behind the technology used in forecasting weather such as computer models, satellite, and radar, I was better prepared to develop as a forecaster. In school, I learned about weather forecasting tools and their applications and now I am able to apply them on a day to day basis.

**Tips:** Pay attention in your math and science classes. Search and ask around for opportunities outside of class such as internships. Weather affects people in many ways. Initially, Hawai‘i’s weather may seem a bit boring. But, as you learn more you begin to understand the different local climates affected by terrain, winds and diurnal cycles. There is a lot to learn in the Hawaiian Islands. So go outside, enjoy the outdoors, and challenge yourself.