

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM

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COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

INTERN:  
KEN HUSTY  
TUNGPALAN

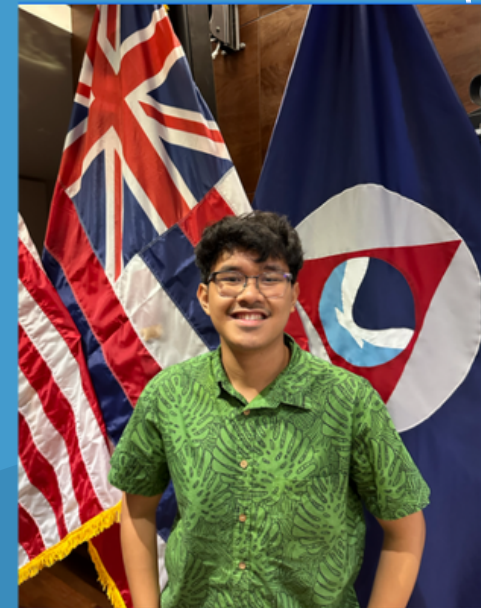
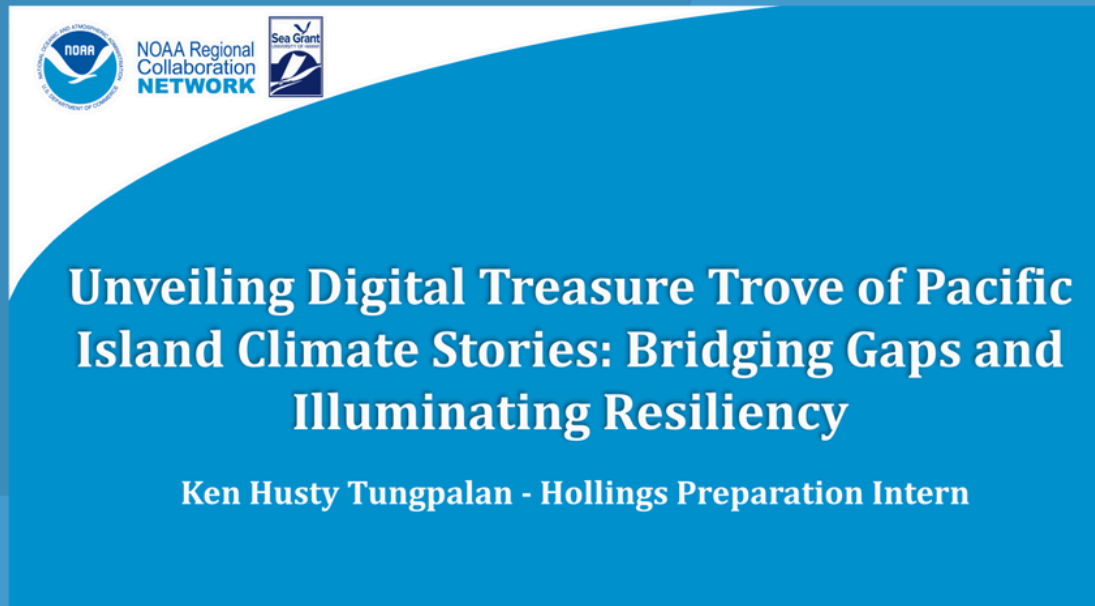
MENTOR:  
LUCINDA KNAPMAN

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AUGUST - DECEMBER 2024



# HOW DID I GET THIS INTERNSHIP?



I was a NOAA Hollings Prep Intern this past summer with the NESDIS Office and Hawaii Sea Grant Communication Office. I wanted to continue pursuing my project on Pacific Island Climate Stories. Therefore, I reached out to my mentors and luckily, I continued my project this fall semester.

**“REACHING OUT IS THE KEY TO MANY OPPORTUNITIES”**

# WHAT DID I DO?



*A scenic view from American Samoa illustrates the vulnerability of low-lying coastal communities. (Photo credit: Carla Baizeau)*

## **"A Sinking Future: American Samoa Faces the Dual Threat of Sea-Level Rise and Land Subsidence"**

In the heart of the South Pacific, halfway between New Zealand and Hawai'i, the U.S. Territory of American Samoa is experiencing rising global sea levels and significant land subsidence after the 2009 earthquake. These remote islands face the highest rate of relative sea-level rise in the United States, making action essential to protect its people, environment, and cultural traditions. These environmental changes are causing increased flooding and coastal erosion, jeopardizing drinking water, food security, vital infrastructure, and threatening the island's communities.

Kelley Anderson Tagarino, a University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea

- Wrote an 800 word article about the American Samoa Sea Level Rise Viewer
- Conducted an interview with Carla Baizeau and Kelley Tagarino to learn about the interactive viewer
- Step by step writing process:
  - Construct a flow map
  - Write a draft
  - Review, Comments, and Critics
  - Finalize Article
  - Published



# WHAT DID I DO?



h Shore Beach Erosion

## **Ensuring a Healthy Future: Youth Plaintiffs vs. Hawai'i's Transportation System"**

June 1, 2022, 14 students\* ages 9 to 18 across the state of Hawai'i, banded together to sue the State of Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT), HDOT's director, former Governor David Ige, and the State of Hawai'i to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation system.

Climate change is impacting both the mauka (land) and makai (sea), threatening the youths' connection to the land and ocean. For example, 14-year-old Navahine explained that she practiced kalo (taro) farming on her ancestral lands in Hakipu'u, Kāne'ohe for ten generations. However, extreme flooding and drought are negatively impacting this cultural practice.

- Wrote an 800-word article about the Navahine vs. Hawaii Department of Transportation lawsuit
- Conducted a discussion with high school students from Waipahu High School to get insights regarding the lawsuit
- Step-by-step writing process:
  - Construct a flow map
  - Write a draft
  - Review, Comments, and Critiques
  - Finalize Article
  - Published



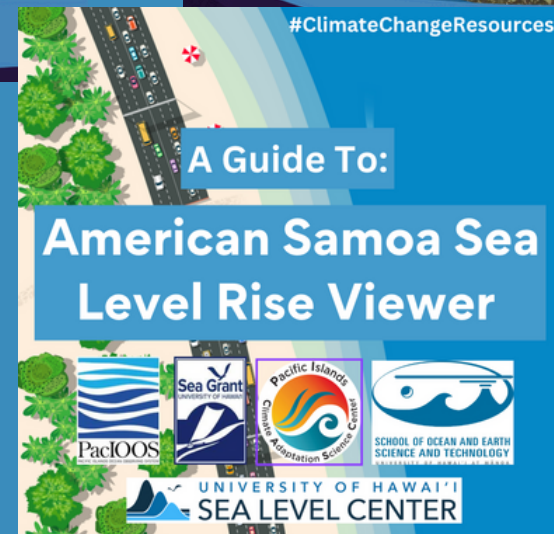
# WHAT DID I DO?

## GRAPHIC DESIGN WORK ON CANVA



### PETER J. RAPP RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE COASTS FELLOWSHIP

Rappa Fellows engage in projects that examine the natural, social, and built environments in Hawai'i and issues that affect coastal community livability, sustainability, and resilience. **Rappa Fellows participate in research topics regarding coastal smart growth and community planning and their integration with hazard mitigation and climate change adaptation as well as cultural and traditional knowledge of Hawai'i.**





# WHAT DID I DO?

## ATTEND NETWORKING EVENTS





# WHAT DID I LEARN FROM THIS EXPERIENCE?

- Attention to detail
- Create a story map for articles/essays
- Create a backward timeline of projects
- Networking is key to success
- Each day is a learning experience
- I like hands-on project



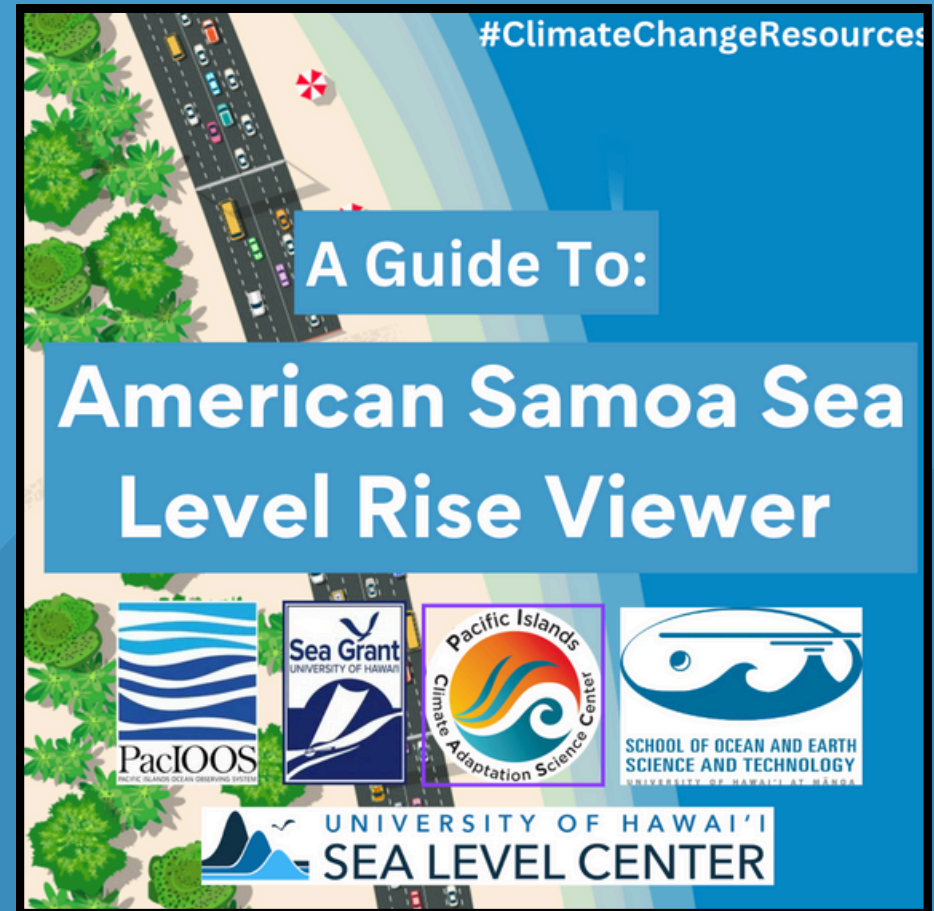


## HOW DID THIS INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE HELP ME?

- Creating opportunities by reaching out
  - I have the power to control my future experiences
- Networking Skills
  - Talk with different people with different background/professionals
- Multitasking and Productivity
- Experience working with Federal-University partnership program
  - Research and Community-based projects
  - Work Environment: Friendly, Productive, and Learn

# WHAT SKILLS DID YOU GAIN?

- Writing Skills
- Communication Skills (i.e., Interviewing professionals and facilitating discussions)
- Graphic Design (Canva)
- Networking Skills



# WHY SHOULD SOMEONE CONSIDER DOING AN INTERNSHIP?

- Resume and CV Builder
  - Highlight your skills and capabilities
- Networking and Future Opportunities
  - Meet with different people with different backgrounds/professionals
- Hawaii Sea Grant Family
  - Work with the smartest and kindest people
- Learning Opportunity
  - Learn what you like and don't like

