

# Kara Neal

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

### **Planner Intern**

SSFM International Inc.

02/2024 - Present

#### *Achievements/Tasks*

- Support writing the 2024 Waimānalo DHHL Regional Plan.
- Support writing the 2024 BWS Watershed Profile Update.
- Complete DOT permits for bridge repairs/ rehabilitation.
- Support writing the Ewa Beach DHHL Homestead Project.
- Assist in making land use maps with GIS.
- Assist in updating projects on Konveio.
- Support writing community meeting summaries.
- Support creating flyers and images through Adobe Illustrator.

### **Capital Improvement Resilience Associate**

Hawai'i County Planning Department

12/2022 - 12/2023

#### *Achievements/Tasks*

- Supported the Hawai'i State Climate Commission in organizing and directing the 1st annual Climate Community Fair on Hawai'i Island. Engagement of over 50 local organizations and 200 people in empowering climate change action and education
- Led grant writing for the Climate Community Fair. We received the HSEO grant of \$10,000 that fully supported the funding needed for the fairs to be implemented and successful.
- Co-led the development our new interactive website, Konveio, for better feedback and community engagement for the Hawai'i County Integrated Climate Action Plan and General Plan
- Supported in 2 General Plan Public Informational Workshops in Hilo and Kona on Hawai'i Island. I presented how to use Konveio website and direct people to workshop tables.

### **Ociana Initiative Graduate Assistant**

Center for Pacific Island Studies University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

01/2023 - 01/2024

#### *Achievements/Tasks*

- Collect data to identify program and education gaps in schools within University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to support Pacific Islander students. Goal of work is to increase an equitable environment for indigenous students and to increase programs and educational opportunities for Pacific Islanders
- Write a preliminary report, present data, IRB to survey, and interview faculty

### **Team Leader**

AmeriCorps NCCC - Southwest Region

10/2021 - 08/2022

### *Achievements/Tasks*

- Team Leader for a group of 10 people (ages 18-26): Team Leader is responsible for supervision, coordination, execution of onsite and offsite tasks.
- Budget meal plans, record data, submit progress reports weekly to my supervisor Submitted final project reports to AmeriCorps NCCC in Washington, D.C.
- Supervise work sites. Assured everyone showed up on time, stayed on task, worked safely and smart, and would take reasonable breaks to avoid burnout.
- Restored homes in Houston, TX due to the 2017 hurricane that negatively affected the community.
- Worked in gardens, farms, and food banks to provide food for homeless and low-income families in Fayetteville, AR

## **Research Associate**

Pacific Internship Programs for Exploring Science (PIPES)

06/2021 - 08/2021

Hilo, HI

### *Achievements/Tasks*

- Facility Site: Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center (PACRC)
- Mentors: Dr. Karla McDermid & Rose Criscione
- Project: Native Seaweed
- Collect and analyze data on seaweed in a controlled and natural environment Report weekly progress reports to PIPES
- End of internship: Final research paper and presentation

## **Swim Instructor**

Hilo Ocean Adventures

06/2019 - 05/2021

Hilo, HI

### *Achievements/Tasks*

- Instructed kids and adults swimming lessons
- Taught ocean safety
- Gave snorkel lessons/ tours at local beaches and on the boat along the coast Scheduled swim lessons, tours, and other bookings
- Assist in opening and closing duties

## **EDUCATION**

### **Master of Urban & Regional Planning (MURP)**

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

08/2022 - 12/2024

Honolulu, HI

### *Courses*

- Statistics using SPSS (PLAN 601)
- Land Use Planning using GIS (PLAN 645)
- Environmental and Resilience Planning (PLAN 625)
- Economics (PLAN 603)
- Site Planning (PLAN 678)
- Critical reading/ writing (literature reviews) PLAN 600

- GIS for Community Planning (PLAN 473)
- Research Design Seminar (PLAN 650)
- Negotiation and Conflict Resolution (PLAN 629)
- Project Planning & Management (PLAN 643)
- Researching Oceania (PACS 603)
- Practicum Project: Building Resilience for Lahaina (PLAN 751)
- Capstone Defense and Paper:
  - “Renewing Community Trust: Fostering Pilina and Embracing Cultural Knowledge for Renewable Energy Planning”
  - Committee: Ashok Das, Konia Antoinette Freitas, and Priyam Das

## **Resilient Communities for Sustainable Cities (Abroad Summer Course)**

Diponegoro University (UNDIP)

07/2023 - 08/2023

Semarang, Indonesia

*Courses*

- Understanding urban informality, inclusion, and innovation.
- Group project identifying specific issues and goals to be met for a community within Semarang, Indonesia.
- Transect Walk Survey Community Interview/ talk story in households.
- 3-page paper and presentation on identified.
- Issues and the potential solutions for the assigned community for short-term and long-term to achieve a sustainable and a resilient community.

## **Environmental Science (B.S.)**

University of Hawai'i at Hilo

08/2018 - 05/2021

Hilo, HI

*Courses*

- Environmental Planning Land Use Planning
- Natural Resources Natural Hazards/Disasters (Building Resilience)
- GIS/ Aerial Photo/ Remote Sensing Conservation Biology Biogeography

## **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

### **Pāhoa High School Garden**

Kupu Environmental Education

07/2024 - 08/2024 , Pāhoa, HI

*Tasks/Achievements*

- Landscape work
- Support in directing high schoolers with garden project

### **Maui Relief Storage Facility**

Council for Native Hawaiian Association (CNHA)

08/2023 - 11/2023 , Honolulu, HI

*Tasks/Achievements*

- Organize donations in storage facility
- Place organized donations on pallets to be shipped to Maui

## **Waikiki Homeless Population Count**

Department of Urban & Regional Planning (DURP)

*09/2022 - 09/2022, Honolulu, HI*

### *Tasks/Achievements*

- Assist the DURP program and Waikiki Business Improvement District Association (WBIDA )in counting the homeless population in Waikiki
- Used specific coding for gender, family, and age

## **Monthly Lili'uokalani Park and Garden Clean-up**

University of Hawai'i at Hilo

*01/2019 - 08/2020, Hilo, HI*

### *Tasks/Achievements*

- Japanese garden clean up for 2-3 hours with other community members
- Pick up rubbish and clear paths

