

August 26, 2014

Aloha,

It's back to school time in Hawai'i and we recently said goodbye to our summer intern, Chloe Fonacier, so that she could begin her studies in the MSW program at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at University of Hawai'i, Mānoa.

This is the fourth year we've hosted a summer intern at the Foundation, and each year we are impressed with the talent of the young people we have the chance to engage with. We are reminded of how valuable an experience an internship can be both to the intern and to the host organization.

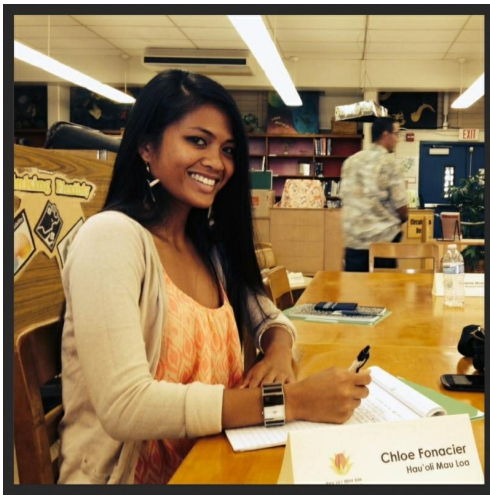
Chloe was referred to our internship program through the School of Social Work where she was just finishing her undergraduate degree. This is the first time we've had an intern who had completed college and we thought it seemed to be a good match. She was able to think about our work at the Foundation in the context of her educational experiences and we benefited from her maturity and knowledge of community resources. On several occasions, I heard her apply something she was learning at the Foundation to her career goals in social work and that was gratifying.

So to all of you who host interns and to all of you who have served as interns in the past, we want to acknowledge the contributions you are making. It's important that young people take the initiative in becoming prepared for the workforce and that there are meaningful ways for them to experience what their future profession might offer. If you're thinking about interning or hosting an intern, I hope this might serve as a reminder about its inherent value.

When the Foundation first hired staff and formally opened its doors in 2008, we made a decision that because our mission included preservation and protection of our natural resources, then our primary mode of communication should not be paper, but instead, electronic. With that in mind, our website really has been and continues to be a central vehicle for sharing the work of the Foundation.

Last year we determined that while our website had been a great tool for us initially, over time, technology and our activities had evolved enough that it was time to take a fresh look at our website design. We agreed it was time for a redesign.

We wanted our new website to be easier to navigate so that when you're looking for a report or trying to understand our strategies you can find the information you're seeking. We also wanted to better promote the work we do with our Partners (often known as "grantees"). We hope that you'll visit our newly launched website at www.hauolimauloa.org and that you'll find it does what we were striving for. If you have comments, please let me know.



***Chloe Fonacier, Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation
2014 Summer Intern***

As supporters of internship and fellowship programs through our Environmental Leadership Pathways program which hopes to help develop the next generation of home-grown conservation leaders in Hawai'i, it's helpful for us to see the benefits and the challenges of hosting a good internship experience. We know that pay is essential. We also know the work has to be meaningful and that the intern needs to be able to connect it to their intended career or studies. Crafting meaningful assignments that create a context for learning and for producing something of value in return takes time and skill. Brant Chillingworth, our Senior Program Officer, has generally overseen our summer internship. He carves time out of his schedule to do this and has learned over the course of several years - often with feedback from the interns - what makes an internship work well. We also know that for an internship to work, there has to be a person willing to take some risk and be open to learning. Other jobs, not internships, might pay more and require less from the worker. There also can be stress in wondering if you will be able to meet the expectations of the internship. There's a responsibility on the part of the intern to be inquisitive and to attempt to connect what might seem to be disparate dots.

On this new website, you'll also notice there's a place to sign-up for updates. If you're interested in continuing to get periodic notes from the Foundation, please go to the "subscribe" section in the green band at the bottom of any page and enter your email address and name. That way, we can stay in touch, of course, you're always welcome to reach out the old-fashioned way by giving us a call (808-545-4212).

Hope you're enjoying your summer,

Janis Reischmann
Executive Director

