The Pacific Internship Programs for Exploring Science (PIPS) is a transformational undergraduate internship opportunity that links Hawai‘i and Pacific Island students to hands-on summer internships with host organizations engaged in research, resource management and outreach related to the stewarding of our lands, oceans and communities. More than just a summer internship, this program focuses on growing both individuals and communities. For 25 years the program has worked with partners across Hawai‘i and Pacific to transform the face and action of conservation.

4 Foundational Pillars

- mentoring
- networking
- kuleana
- ‘āina momona

“After completing my internship this summer, I felt that the program was very inspiring and makes me want to further my education.”

William Dela Cruz, 2018 Intern
Mauna Kea Watershed Partnership

“PIPS has pushed me to do better, expect more, and have faith in the work I do. I know PIPS has effected not only my schooling but my confidence and place as an upcoming professional.”

Angelica Melone, 2018 Intern
UH Manoa, Ecolhydrology Lab
**2018 by the numbers**

- Bringing together interns from diverse backgrounds and interests, PIPES aims to create ONE cohesive cohort to support each other.

2/3 of interns were first generation college students.

42 from across Hawai‘i, the wider Pacific, and the U.S.

**Internship Type**
- Resource Mgmt
- Research
- Outreach/Education

*Groupings indicate primary internship type; however, many internships include exposure to various facets of conservation.*

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**Impacts of Mentoring**

**Mentors**
- Share knowledge
- Gain assistance on projects and efforts
- Learn through interactions with interns
- Make contacts with future employees and fellow mentors

**Intens**
- Gain professional skills and experience
- Build confidence to pursue careers in their chosen field
- Understand challenges and needs unique to conservation in our local communities
- Develop strong and lasting networks across Hawai‘i and the Pacific

As alumni have moved into careers, many have taken on the role as mentors within the PIPES.

10 mentors were PIPES alumni in 2018.

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I learned about an area of biology that I was really interested and hadn’t done much in. So now I’m even more excited about it and confident that it is something I want to pursue. Next semester I will likely be taking classes related to tropical ecology that I wouldn’t have before.

Jasmin Curiel, Intern
UH Hilo Biology Department

Jasmin (center), with her mentors Dr. Pat Hart (back), Bret Mossman (left, PIPES 2016 alum) and Koa Matsuoka (right, PIPES 2011 alum).