

Farm Apprentice Internship

Part-time & seasonal

Location: Hawaii Forest Farms, 19-4610 Amaumau Road, Volcano, HI 96785

Brief Description of company:

Hawaii Forest Farms (HFF) was originally created to support Shaka Tea, a local herbal beverage company whose primary ingredient is *māmaki* (*Pipturus albidus*). We are located on thirty acres of old-growth indigenous forest on the slopes of Mauna Loa, in Volcano Village, not far from Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Here we defend the forest from encroaching invasive species, educate visitors and the community about Big Island habitats and culture, and of course grow *māmaki* to supply Shaka Tea and our other wholesale & retail customers.

Duties/Responsibilities:

HFF is a commercial mamaki farm and education center, a pioneer of regenerative agriculture on the Big Island of Hawaii. There is a wide variety of components that go into this picture that include farm maintenance/upkeep, harvesting & processing crops, invasive species removal & native species protection/regeneration, hosting community events & tours & school groups, advertising/marketing/outreach.. all of which are continuing to develop.

Our interns are responsible for learning about and aiding in some or all of these components, depending both on an intern's specific interests and on what needs to be done on the farm at a given time. Interns are expected to show up to their scheduled shift, rain or shine, and are responsible for supplying their own close-toed footwear and weather-appropriate clothing.

Required Qualifications/Skills:

- Be able to take instruction and follow directions, both when working with the supervisor and working independently, in an efficient, respectful and responsible manner.
- Familiarity with basic gardening/farming tools like shovels, soil picks, hard/soft rakes, etc.
- Ability to learn new skills and always be open to improving them (such as plant ID, use of tools, work efficiency & speed, etc.)
- Must be aged 18 years or older.
- Must have transportation to the work site.
- Some schedule flexibility.

Preferred Qualifications/Skills:

- Knowledge of common invasive and native plants in Hawaii.
- Experience/knowledge of plants from previous garden, landscaping, or farming experiences.
- Familiarity with hand pruners/loppers, and experience pruning plants for leaf-production and structure.
- Familiarity with safely using machetes and sickles.
- Interest in forest farming.

Benefits of internship & compensation:

- Opportunity to experience and learn firsthand the operations of a unique, established forest farm

- Learn how to grow your own food/medicine in a way that builds soil health, provides shelter and sustenance for wildlife, and leaves future generations better-off
- Occasional farm produce to take home depending on season, and all the mamaki tea you can drink while you're with us
- Potential to be considered for future employment
- Our wide scope of duties and tasks will give you competitive experience to prepare you for future positions in regenerative agriculture
- Letter of recommendation for interns who perform well

Schedule/duration:

Our farm schedule has us operating five days per week with few exceptions- our interns are generally obligated to a 4-6 hour shift each weekday for the duration of their 6-month term. Hazardous weather or unforeseen circumstances may impact our ability to offer work on certain days.

Next Steps in Application Process:

Please submit a resume and two references to the following email address:

jordanwesterholm@gmail.com We will contact you by email within a week to potentially schedule an interview and ideally a farm-visit!