

# MidWeek

## Marine Life Awareness Via Hands-on Classes

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By Alana Folen

To make sure we malama Hawaii's diverse marine life, conservation groups are offering Ocean Awareness training at Windward Community College and on Coconut Island.

Classes are scheduled for Sept. 11, 18 and Oct. 2 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at WCC and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 25 on the island.

Participants must attend all four sessions and do a three-hour field project in order to receive C.O.R.A.L (Care of our Culture, Oceans, Reefs and Animal Life) certification.

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"We started our courses in the fall of 2008, and this is the first time we're offering courses on the Windward side. It's a great introduction to a whole variety of marine topics," said Fiona Langenberger, a volunteer with Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, which is helping coordinate the training.

"Everyone interested in marine conservation is invited to take part," she added, noting that everyone must be at least 16 years old. "We get a lot of participants who also volunteer for other marine organizations as well as students and retirees."

During the sessions, marine experts discuss current conservation efforts affecting the marine environment, Hawaiian culture, reef biology and ecology, water quality and coastal hazards, among many other topics.

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Registration fee is \$20 and is due at the beginning of class on Sept. 11. It includes materials, refreshments and training costs.

For more information, visit <http://oceanaware-hawaii.org> or call 397-2651, ext. 249.

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