



Training Announcement, Immediate Release: Wednesday, April 14, 2010

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Free Ocean Awareness Training Course Begins Again this May

Online Registration Site and Details: <http://www.oceanawarehawaii.org/>

Dates: Kihei: *Mondays and Wednesdays* May 3, 5, 10, 12, 17 and 19.
Lahaina: *Tuesdays and Thursdays* May 4, 6, 11, 13, 18 and 20.

Time: 6:30pm – 8pm

Where: Kihei: National Marine Sanctuary, 726 S. Kihei Rd in Kihei
Lahaina: Waiola Church, 535 Waiee St. in Lahaina

Local environmental organizations on Maui in partnership with the National Marine Sanctuary are joining forces to offer a free Ocean Awareness Training certification course to the community and commercial marine activities operators. After completing all 6 courses you will receive a CORAL (Care of our Culture, Ocean, Reefs and Animal Life) certification card that demonstrates your ocean knowledge. This free training course will provide community volunteers and marine activity operators with up-to-date knowledge and interpretive skills to properly educate visitors about Hawaii's unique marine environment. A three-week series of interactive workshops will be held beginning Monday, May 3rd in Kihei, and Tuesday May 4th in Lahaina.

This series of workshops will focus on Reef Ecosystems. Each session is designed to provide resources and outreach tools for anyone onshore or out on the water that is learning about our environment, talking with visitors, volunteering in the community or serving in water activity businesses. Course topics will include and cover the basics of Reef Ecosystems, Naturalist Perspectives, Invertebrates, Fish ID, Sea Turtles & Sharks, Water Quality and Volunteering. Trainers include: Darla White of DLNR's Eyes of the Reef, Hannah Bernard of Maui Reef Fund, Pauline Fiene "Maui's best invertebrate instructor," Liz Foote of Project S.E.A.-Link, John Mitchell of Digital Bus and Alastair Hebard of the National Marine Sanctuary. The CORAL certification will also help participants meet the requirements for volunteer positions as a Sanctuary Docent and other island-wide volunteer programs where volunteers assist certified professional guides and owners.

"The Ocean Awareness Training course was an excellent experience! This course should be mandatory for all tour guides and operators that care about the environment and want to have the latest info about our local marine ecosystem." - Paul Noble, Owner/Operator Maui Kayaks

SPACE IS LIMITED! Register online above or confirm with Tracy Burke at (808) 879-2818 ext 28.

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