

## Apply to the 2023 Blue Water Exchange

The Blue Waters Exchange (BWE) program is an eight-month Capstone experience designed for college to early career participants in conservation and environmental fields. The BWE creates an opportunity for individuals to work in new landscapes, learn from different cultures, gain exposure to career paths, and expand and share their perspectives through deep dialogue about our community's most pressing issues.

This year's program will run February to September 2023. The exchange starts with five months of bimonthly virtual meetings where participants will hear from guest speakers and discuss conservation topics with their fellow cohort members. June through August 2023, the participants will experience four weeks of travel between California and Hawai'i for place-based learning. Exchange program topics will include connection to place and past, indigenous perspectives, current environmental issues, research, community engagement, and more. The BWE program will select five California representatives and five Hawai'i representatives for the 2023 cohort.

What's your contribution? A commitment of eight months, an open mind, and an open heart. You'll be required to participate in the virtual meetings as well as complete offline assignments and projects. We got the rest. BWE will cover the cost for your airfare, ground transportation, lodging, and meals while traveling. We will also provide you with great teachers, mentors, coaches, and facilitators to guide your experience! At the conclusion of BWE 2023, you will be required to complete a capstone piece that narrates your personal experience through the program.

To qualify for the program, you must also:

- Be available to travel to both California and Hawai'i between June and August 2023 (dates TBD). Note that the program will adhere to each state's vaccination and travel policies.
- Have successfully completed a structured six-week (or more) environmental type of program with training that included relevant cultural, conservation, sustainability, and leadership development.
- Demonstrate a proven commitment and leadership to your local community.
- Be interested in pursuing a career with an environmental and/or conservation focus.
- Possess a learner mindset and willingness to expand your knowledge and experiences while working with a diverse team.
- Be 20 years of age or older.

Applications are due by **December 31, 2022**. To apply, please complete the online application form linked below: <https://forms.gle/fNXxtAPKTwsd4qDn7>

If you have any questions, please contact us at [bluewater@malamaaina.org](mailto:bluewater@malamaaina.org).

