Internship positions are available with the Environmental Dynamics and Ecosystem Responses (ENDER) Team at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Interns will help with a long term ecosystem and climate monitoring project, assisting in installing and maintaining a series of climate stations, as well as establishing and monitoring ecosystem plots on the Big Island of Hawaii’s windward and leeward sides.

Work as part of a team to help set up, maintain, and retrieve data from automated climate stations and to set up and monitor permanent forest plots. Establishing climate stations may involve installation of sensor support masts or towers, including site preparation and erecting structures. Work in forest plots will involve identifying, measuring, tagging, and mapping trees and estimating abundance of herbaceous vegetation, as well as assisting in monthly measurements of soil respiration and litter fall.

Position will be largely field work in a variety of different forest types across a steep elevational gradient. Conditions can be cold, hot, wet, windy, and dry. Getting to and from often remote field sites requires driving on rough, rocky, dusty, and muddy roads. Work will involve long hours of hiking and standing and may require lifting containers weighing up to 35 pounds. This is a unique opportunity to work in some of Hawaii’s most pristine native forests and contribute to research that will help guide efforts to conserve some of the rarest plants and animals in the world.

Minimum Qualifications: Background in the Biological Sciences, including either completed credit hours in Botany, Biology, Ecology, Environmental science or related coursework, or previous experience in the field and/or laboratory collecting biological data. Basic computer skills, including experience with Microsoft Excel. Valid driver’s license. Ability to work effectively and positively as a member of a larger team. Willingness and ability to work long field hours in rugged terrain under inclement weather conditions.

Preferred Qualifications: Ability to navigate in the field using GPS units, compasses, and maps. Previous experience in identifying plants a plus.

Hires will receive a stipend of $1500/month and will be responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from Hawaii as well as providing their own housing while not in the field. Work schedule is full time (40 hrs/wk). To apply please send a cover letter explaining your interest in this position along with a resume that includes contact information for three references to Joshua VanDeMark at joshuarv@hawaii.edu. For questions regarding this announcement email or call (808)-854-2656.

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