



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM SEA GRANT



May 2018

The University of Guam Sea Grant is one of 33 Sea Grant college programs and is a cooperative program of the University of Guam.

Guam Sea Grant receives \$300,000 National Science Foundation award



Guam Sea Grant provides opportunities for students to explore local environments. Credit: Trevor Boykin, Guam Sea Grant

Native Pacific Islander communities are underserved with limited opportunities to engage in science, technology, education and mathematics (STEM). In October 2017, Guam Sea Grant received a two-year, \$300,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) *Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science (INCLUDES)* Award to establish a STEM pathway for Native Pacific Islanders from high school to terminal degrees in STEM. A cohort of 40 high school, undergraduate, and graduate students will be placed on a STEM pathway toward terminal science degrees. The cohort will receive research training and conduct educational outreach activities to engage the broader community in STEM.

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1,100

Attendees at public or professional presentations



700

K-12 students reached

10

Undergraduate and graduate students supported



Metrics reported to National Sea Grant Office in June 2017 for work completed February 2016 to January 2017



RESEARCH

EXTENSION

EDUCATION

Guam Sea Grant funding leads to increased enforcement of marine protected area regulations in Piti Bay



Piti Bay is one of five marine preserves designated and protected in Guam.
Credit: IKONOS imagery, Space Imaging LLC

Piti Bay, a marine protected area, receives more than 20,000 visitors per year, but damage from tourists can threaten the area’s long-term viability as both a major attraction and critical habitat for marine life. Regulation and enforcement is difficult due to the large number of tour operators, as well as the government’s limited financial ability to hire more conservation officers. Guam Sea Grant funded SCUBA training for one conservation officer and trainee, as well as funded a year of a reporting hotline phone service. This support allowed conservation officers to conduct water-based surveillance to check on derelict fishing gear and coral bleaching. From January through September 2017, the reporting hotline received 926 calls and 36 texts, resulting in three arrests for illegal fishing.

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“Showing kids that they can dedicate their whole lives to something like conservation means a lot to me, because I never had that as a kid. In time, they’ll be the ones leading the scientific community in solving the problems that their generation will face.”

- Seanne Clemente, University of Guam undergraduate student
and Guam Sea Grant outreach intern

40th Annual Guam Science Fair draws over 600 participants



Guam Sea Grant is a major sponsor of the annual Islandwide Science Fair held at the University of Guam. In 2018, the 40th year of the science fair, 612 K-12 students participated. The overall winners from all grade levels will represent Guam at the International Science and Engineering Fair.

Launching Guam Restoration of Watersheds (GROW) Initiative



Guam’s coral reefs and other marine life are threatened by poor land-use practices. Through the newly-launched Guam Restoration of Watersheds (GROW) Initiative, Guam Sea Grant conducts educational outreach and research to enhance local stakeholders’ understanding of environmental stressors. Over 1,614 community members have been reached through outreach activities.

Informing Preparedness Legislation



Climate change is a threat to Pacific Island communities, and addressing its impacts requires a coordinated response from all sectors of government. Guam Sea Grant provided testimony to the Guam Legislature of the urgency to act on changing environmental conditions. Public Law 34-7 was passed, establishing the Guam Council on Climate Change Preparedness and Resiliency.