



Background:

Kupu is a non-profit organization founded in 2007 and based in Honolulu, Hawaii. Kupu works towards a restored and sustained community through training the next generation in natural resource management, renewable energy, energy conservation and other green job skill sets. Kupu is predicated on the Hawaiian concept of *maka hana ka 'ike*, "in working, one learns."

Environmental Initiatives:

- Kupu has created a procurement policy with preference to purchasing sustainable items and energy efficient equipment
- Their office switched to recycled copy paper and toilet paper
- Kupu is also working to de-lamp their office, and encouraging the building's cleaning service to use green cleaners and paper items
- The office reuses all cups and plate ware in office, and encourages telecommuting

Community Involvement:

Most notable is their commitment to the local community through the administration of a multitude of youth oriented environmental education and work programs. Kupu serves at-risk high school students to recent graduate students by offering opportunities to learn about the Hawaiian culture and the islands' unique environment.

- Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps, HYCC, provides a set of summer through year-round programs to Hawaii's youth encouraging environmental conservation, restoration, education, and cultural awareness.
- RISE is a collaborative effort to develop Hawaii's green workforce and implement a variety of sustainability projects across the state, innovatively addressing two paramount needs for Hawaii: local job creation and sustainable development.
- E²U is an environmental education program aimed towards engaging students and the community in stimulating, educational and hands-on activities and curriculum that will broaden conservation and sustainability knowledge, and engage them in service and inspire them to higher education and careers.
- CommunityU equips under-resourced young adults (ages 16-24) with the experiences, education, training and support needed to become productive members of society with a heart to serve and positively impact the community around them.