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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Ke Alahele Internships build education pathways for Hawaii's future workforce**

Coming home to Maui after her first year of college, Taryn Takahashi was hoping to find a summer job that would tie in with her interest in biology while earning her a little money for school.

Thanks to the Ke Alahele Education Fund, she found it.

The 2006 Baldwin graduate was the first recipient of a Ke Alahele Summer Internship sponsored by the Maui Economic Development Board in partnership with the Maui High Performance Computing Center.

Currently a Stanford pre-med major, Taryn researched, wrote and presented a Bioinformatics Demonstration Project to scientists and engineers at MHPCC.

Joining her as a Ke Alahele recipient, 2007 Maui High graduate Jacob Davis was awarded an internship at the Pacific Disaster Center. His three years experience in GPS/GIS technology for Project EAST handily prepared him for PDC's software-driven disaster mitigation projects.

A member of the award-winning team honored at EAST's 2007 national conference, Jacob also recently presented a paper at the ESRI International Education Conference showcasing the use of GIS in mapping the Maui High campus.

According to Committee Chair Curt Leonard, "Part of Ke Alahele's mission is to attract and retain bright, motivated homegrown talent to build a strong 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce for Hawaii. Internships are excellent ways to engage potential candidates."

"We want to be able to offer lucrative STEM positions to our talented young people, especially those who want to come home to work and raise their families," Leonard said.

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"Ke Alahele's Summer Internship Program not only offers an exceptional

opportunity for our students to learn in the actual workplace but also apply their knowledge to real world problems and issues. It also makes students aware of the excellent career opportunities available at home."

As the education fund grows, Leonard sees internships offered in a wide range of STEM careers from astronomy to engineering, from health care to environmental sciences.

In 2006, the Maui Economic Development Board established the Ke Alahele Education Fund to strengthen the education to workforce pipeline for science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

To date, it has awarded over \$25,000 to school projects and students in support of science and technology education.

To learn how you or your organization can apply for Ke Alahele Education Fund grants, go to [www.medb.org](http://www.medb.org). Or call MEDB at 875-2300.

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