

## Fun in the sun and marine education too

This summer, three North Shore high school students — Sal Firmani, Amy Firman, and Jarom Au — spent a fun summer interning and learning about marine stewardship at the beach with Malama Pupukeya-Waimea, a local organization that cares for the Pupukeya Marine Life Conservation District. These bright young students who are enrolled at Waiialua High School, Kahuku High School, and home schooled, completed an ocean awareness training course about marine life in Hawaii held at Turtle Bay Resort in May and then devoted numerous Saturdays during the summer to helping educate the public at the Malama Pupukeya-Waimea outreach tent at Sharks Cove. Every



Sal Firmani (left) and Jarom Au (right).

Saturday for about last five years, this North Shore non-profit has offered educational information and monitored visitor usage of the marine reserve. As volunteers for the State's "Makai Watch" program — like neighborhood watch for the ocean — Sal, Amy, and Jarom learned how protecting this marine reserve contributes to the health of our oceans. After spending many hours on land and in the water with long-time North Shore residents who have a wealth of knowledge about this special area, these fortunate high school students also now have a better cultural understanding of Hawaii's unique natural heritage and have accepted some kuleana for its future.

Jarom felt that, "This was the most fun summer I have ever had. I enjoyed all of the people I got to work with, and I learned how to identify fish."

Sal said, "I feel lucky. It is important to learn about fish and invasive species. I worked with new personalities and gained more social skills."

To top off the students' summer internship experience, Jarom and Sal will be representing Malama

Pupukeya-Waimea as youth representatives, along with local educators Jenny Yagodich (Waimea Valley) and Emily Pualoa (La'ie Elementary School), at an upcoming three-day E Ala Pu workshop on the North Shore of Kauai focused on exchanging community knowledge about marine stewardship.