

Alexandra Pugada

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Workforce Assistant - Aquaculture Conservation Oceanic Institute, Honolulu, HI 2026-Current

- **Authored a comprehensive broodstock training manual to onboard new staff and standardize operational protocols**
- Assist in broodstock operations, supporting spawning, egg collection, and larval production processes
- Monitor fish health, behavior, and tank conditions, including airflow, water flow, and overall system stability
- Measure and record water quality parameters (temperature, pH, salinity, dissolved oxygen) using YSI probes
- Collect, rinse, and process egg samples; distinguish viable vs. non-viable eggs based on buoyancy and development
- Perform quantitative egg counts and apply standard formulas to estimate total viable yield
- Maintain and manage egg collection systems, including proper handling and placement of egg nets
- Feed and care for multiple marine species following precise dietary protocols and schedules
- Input and organize biological data in Excel for tracking and reporting purposes

CLASS EXPERIENCE

R/V Kaholo Boat Lab Research Hawaii Pacific University, Honolulu, HI 2026-Current

- Conduct sediment sampling using Van Veen grab sampler, multi-corer, and mini box corer
- Deploy a Secchi disk to measure water clarity
- Perform plankton sampling (shallow, deep, and manta tows) and analyze samples via microscopy
- Conduct hydrocasts using Niskin bottles
- Collect and analyze oceanographic data using Conductivity, Temperature, Depth (CTD) equipment, YSI probe, and turbidimeter
- Generate vertical profiles (e.g., salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen) using Excel
- Interpret relationships between water column parameters and depth
- Operate hydraulic systems and follow vessel safety protocols
- Plot navigational courses and calculate transit time

VOLUNTEER AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Event Coordinator - Marine Science Club Hawaii Pacific University, Honolulu, HI 2026-Current

- Plan and execute education outreach events at the Ocean Exploration Center
- Develop materials for coastal cleanup initiatives at Hanauma Bay
- Coordinate sustainability-focused campus events
- Promote community engagement and speaker series with NOAA and Papahānaumokuākea

Georgia Aquarium Volunteer Georgia Aquarium, Atlanta, GA 2024-2025

- Working in the customer service sector to assist visitors with entrance questions and curiosities about marine life
- Collaborating with other volunteers to educate visitors about the biodiversity within the ocean and sustainability
- Monitoring exhibits to answer inquiries about different animal behaviors and patterns

IB Global Issues Education Outreach Mentor Atlanta Public Schools, Atlanta, GA 2023-2025

- Mentored elementary students in research and analysis of global issues
- Taught research methods, citation practices, and critical evaluation of sources
- Guided students in presenting solutions to issues such as species endangerment and ocean pollution
- Supported the development of community-based initiatives and awareness campaigns

National English Honors Community Service Coordinator

NORTH ATLANTA HIGH SCHOOL, ATLANTA, GA 2024-2025

- Organized book drives, collecting 200+ books for donation to community organizations
- Translated poetry from Spanish to English and led discussions on Hispanic literary contributions
- Promoted voter registration initiatives for eligible high school students
- Coordinated food and supply distribution for local shelters and underserved communities

North Atlanta Library Supervisor

NORTH ATLANTA HIGH SCHOOL, ATLANTA, GA 2021-2023

- Assisted visitors with book inquiries, checkouts, and returns
- Organized and maintained library inventory through cataloging and shelving
- Supported community book drives, collecting 75+ books for disaster relief efforts

Section Leader and Manager, North Atlanta Warrior Musical Department, ATLANTA, GA

2021-2025

- Responsible as a section leader who helps to teach the euphonium and trombone sections
- Promoted within 12 months due to strong performance and organizational impact (one year ahead of schedule)
- Developed and arranged music, rehearsal schedules, and organized performance opportunities for the band to recite their music for fundraisers

EDUCATION

Hawaii Pacific University | Honolulu, HI

Bachelor of Arts in Marine Affairs, Minor in Public Administration | 2025-Present

- Marine Scholar Student
- Residential Honors Student, Fall of 2025
- HMAR Volunteer/Data Recorder

North Atlanta High School | Atlanta, GA

Diploma | 2021-2025

- International Baccalaureate Career-Related Program Scholar

SKILLS

Laboratory & Field Techniques:

Conductivity, Temperature, Depth (CTD) equipment, YSI probes, hydrocasts, sediment sampling, plankton sampling

Data & Analysis:

Excel (data logging, vertical profiling, analysis), quantitative calculations

Marine Operations:

Broodstock management, water quality monitoring, and aquaculture systems

Leadership & Outreach:

Event coordination, mentoring, education, and community engagement