NREM 200: Environmental Service Learning II

New Course Justification

1. What is the objective and purpose of the new course?
   Please see the course justification for NREM 105 for a description of the Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps. The HYCC Hana Hou members are second-year participants who come back to work at a single site. They generally undertake a more sophisticated and focused project than team members. The objectives of NREM 200 are:
   - Gain in-depth knowledge of conservation and threats to sustainability in a particular location
   - Be able to identify most native and invasive species at the location, with particular attention to threatened and endangered species
   - Demonstrate the ability to develop or implement an integration conservation or restoration plan for the location

2. How will the content be organized?
   Kupu provides safety training for Hana Hou members. Site managers provide training on specific work duties. The instructor provides readings on strategies and practices for restoration and conservation of native ecosystems.

3. What other courses at UHM closely parallel the proposed course and in what way will the latter make a distinct contribution?
   As with NREM 105, several Hawaiian Studies courses cover similar topics in natural and cultural resources and practices, but these are upper-division courses. NREM 210 covers various natural resource issues and conservation strategies, but it does not have a field component; thus, NREM 200 makes a distinct contribution as a service learning course.

4. Where or how does the proposed course fit into the current and future curriculum?
   This course serves as a recruiting tool for the NREM department and the college as a whole. It strengthens what they learned as HYCC team members and deepens not only their understanding of conservation issues but also their understanding of resource management strategies and development of practical management skills.

5. Why is the number of credits and level justified? Explain the prerequisites and the absence thereof.
   Student will spend 5 weeks working 40 hours per week at each site. This equates to 200 contact hours in the field. In addition, students will have written material to read, written assignments based on that material, and they will have to prepare a report and oral presentation (see syllabus). The contact hours and assignments are analogous to NREM 492L, which is 3 credits.

6. How will the course assist students to achieve the critical skills and competencies expected of CTAHR graduates?
   1. Written communications: reading assignments, journal, and report
   2. Oral communications: project presentation and communicating with site manager
4. Personal characteristics: perseverance, time management, goal-oriented

7. Real world experience: learning technical skills for resource management

7. How will students be evaluated?
   The syllabus describes how students are evaluated. Their work performance is evaluated by the site manager and HYCC program coordinators (“participation”). The instructor grades reading assignments, the project presentation, and the research paper.

8. What are the minimum qualifications for teaching this course? Is a qualified instructor now available?
   Someone with sufficient academic training and work or research experience in natural resource management, especially conservation or restoration, is necessary to instruct this course. Dr. Travis Idol meets these qualifications and will serve as the instructor for this course, although many of the faculty members in NREM could serve as instructor.

9. How will the course be financed, assuming no further cutbacks?
   Since this course is offered through the Outreach College, tuition paid by the students will cover the costs of the course. The department will attempt to obtain funding for a teaching assistant to reduce or eliminate the need to cover faculty salary and thus reduce the tuition cost to students.

10. Has the course been offered before? Is there a demand for it?
    As mentioned previously, the course was offered by the Botany department. NREM offered the course as a special topics class in Summer 2011 and 2012. The combined enrollment (team members, leaders, and Hana Hou) has averaged 20 students.

11. Is the course cross-listed with another department?
    No, but the department is open to cross-listing with Botany or Hawaiian Studies.