

**PALANI AKANA**  
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## EDUCATION

**Columbia University**, *New York, NY*

Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology Ph.D. Student     *Anticipated Graduation May 2022*

**Stanford University**, *Stanford, CA*

M.S. Management Science & Engineering; GPA: 3.95

*Graduated Mar. 2016*

B.S. Earth Systems with Honors; GPA: 4.00; Phi Beta Kappa

*Graduated Jun. 2015*

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## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Research Assistant**, *Institute of Pacific Island Forestry, Hilo, HI*

*Mar. 2016-May 2016*

- Assisted in fieldwork on long-term forest restoration experiment
- Gathered data on tree height and DBH, phenology, seedling recruitment, light environment
- Collected, sorted, and weighed litter and seed samples

**Earth Systems Honors Program**, *Stanford University*

*May 2013-May 2015*

- Thesis entitled: *The effects of mean annual precipitation and substrate age on plant foliar nutrient composition*
- Investigated relationships between soil development and plant foliar chemistry; collected foliar samples along two rainfall gradients located on young and old soils
- Project included question formulation, experimental design, summer fieldwork, lab techniques, literature review, data analysis, and written and visual presentation of results
- Collected, managed, and analyzed a large dataset of hundreds of observations

**Research Intern**, *Ulu Mau Puanui, Kohala, HI*

*Jul. 2013-Aug. 2013*

- Prepared and monitored agriculture experiments at local non-profit
- Educated community members on native Hawaiian agriculture through experiential learning

**Wrigley Field Program in Hawaii Participant**, *Stanford University*

*Sep. 2012-Dec. 2012*

- Conducted field research under supervision of various Stanford faculty
  - Carried out independent research project on annual rainfall and epiphyte abundance
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## PRESENTATIONS

**Akana PR**, Chadwick OA, Bateman JB, Vitousek PM. *Nutrient concentrations in foliar and soil samples collected from a rainfall gradient on 20kyr basaltic substrate*. August 2015. Contributed talk at Ecological Society of America annual meeting. Baltimore, MD

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Course Assistant**, *Wrigley Field Program in Hawaii, Stanford University*

*Sep. 2016-Dec. 2016*

Biology 116: Ecology of the Hawaiian Islands

Earth Systems 117: Earth Sciences of the Hawaiian Islands

Anthropology 118: Heritage, Environment, and Sovereignty in Hawaii

- Assisted with 12-week ecology course teaching scientific process through field research
- Taught fieldwork methods in a range of disciplines from community ecology to marine biology

**Teaching Assistant**, *Department of Biology, Stanford University*

*Jan. 2016-Mar. 2016*

Biology 117: Biology and Global Change

- Prepared, graded, and provided feedback on assignments and exams; organized review sessions
- Guest lecture, March 7, 2016: Invasion and Extinction

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### LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

**Project Director**, *Amigos de las Américas, Coclé, Panama*

*Jan. 2016-Aug. 2016*

- Oversaw 6-week cultural exchange program in Panama for 55 youth
- Arranged home stays, developed emergency procedures, and connected with local organizations
- Collaborated with officials from the Panamanian Ministry of Health to develop and implement programming for environmental and community health initiatives in 24 rural communities
- Managed \$40,000 project budget and obtained local donations with \$20,000 monetary value

**Resident Assistant**, *Crothers Memorial Hall, Stanford University*

*Sep. 2013-Jun. 2015*

- Collaborated with a large staff to manage residents in Stanford's largest dormitory
- Organized and led a variety of community-building activities on and off-campus

**Training Director**, *Amigos de las Américas, SF Peninsula Chapter, CA*

*Aug. 2013-Aug. 2015*

- Managed a staff of 8 to carry out a 100-hour training program
- Prepared 60 high school students for a summer of community service in Latin America

**Project Supervisor**, *Amigos de las Américas, Cotopaxi, Ecuador*

*Jun. 2012-Aug. 2012*

- Oversaw 40 American youth on a 7-week volunteer project
- Directly managed program logistics and home-stays for 8 volunteers in 4 communities
- Worked with local agencies and leaders to carry out sustainable, community-led projects

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### TECHNICAL SKILLS

R Statistical Software, C++, Java, MS Office

Fluency in Spanish