1. What is the plan if the coronavirus pandemic is still an issue during the summer?
   Currently, the program will be run as a normal program (per our website description). However, if the coronavirus pandemic continues into the summer, the program will change its structure to keep all participants and host site staff as safe as possible. Due to the uncertain nature of the pandemic, several “back-up” plans are being created. For example, in summer 2020, the program switched into an individual placement program, which is a possible structure for 2022. Should the 2022 program need to change, all participants and host sites will be informed ASAP—we are currently planning on making an announcement in the spring.

2. Does Kupu currently have a policy for vaccinations?
   In order to promote the safety and well-being of staff, participants, and the communities we serve, Kupu has implemented a wide range of health and safety protocols. As such, HYCC Summer Program participants are required to follow all applicable government rules and mandates. Furthermore, while not considered to be employees at their designated host sites, participants are required to adhere to host site-specific requirements and policies, including those related to vaccination status. We will note that a significant portion of HYCC Summer host sites require visitors (including volunteers) to be fully vaccinated before serving at a host site, without the alternative of testing. As this requirement is applicable to a significant portion of our host sites, successful completion of the program will require participants to meet the full vaccination requirement by the anticipated start date.

3. What do we do in the HYCC Summer program?
   HYCC Summer teams serve and explore some of the most beautiful and unique places in Hawai‘i. During your summer with us you will be involved in activities such as, but not limited to, hiking, tail maintenance, site restoration, invasive species removal, native planting, and exposure to Hawaiian culture. Participants have long days of intense service in various weather conditions to gain skills and support the community and host site.

   The program schedule is generally as follows:
   - Orientation - 1 day (May)
   - Team Leader Training (Team Leaders only) - 1 week (May/June)
   - Team Training (All Participants) - 1 week (June)
   - Service (All Participants) - 6 weeks (June/July); may include camping trips

4. Where exactly do HYCC Summer teams serve throughout the program?
   Many of the sites that host HYCC Summer teams are within the Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources, National Parks, and other local non-profit environmental organizations. Specific host sites vary by year and by island.
5. Who is eligible to apply?
   Team Member applicants must be 17 years old by the first day of member training. Applicants who are currently 16 years old, but whose 17th birthday will be on or before the first day of member training, are eligible to apply.

   Team Leader applicants must be 21 years old by the first day of team leader training.

6. Does the program offer housing & transportation to participants?
   No. Participants are required to secure their own reliable housing & transportation to a specified meeting location every day on the island for which they are applying.

7. How do HYCC Summer teams get to and from the meeting location to all of the host sites throughout the summer?
   The HYCC Summer program provides Team Leaders with a rental vehicle for the purpose of driving their Team Members from the meeting location to the host sites in the morning and back in the afternoon. Any transportation adjustments must be discussed and approved first.

8. Where are the HYCC Summer team meeting locations?
   Teams will be assigned meeting locations in public spaces that are centrally located for the team. Examples of meeting locations are community colleges, park-and-rides, or shopping centers.

9. What time are the service days?
   A typical day of service falls between 7am – 5pm from Monday to Friday. This timeframe can change to much earlier depending on scheduled camping trips and/or by host site.

10. Do HYCC Summer teams camp all summer long?
    Each team will have a different itinerary for the summer. O'ahu teams typically do day-trips with the possibility of a few nights of camping throughout the program. Neighbor-Island teams tend to receive more opportunities for camping due to the remoteness of host sites.

11. Will there be food provided?
    Participants will be responsible to bring lunch and snacks for all day-trips to host sites. However, Team Leaders receive a camping food budget to provide meals specifically for overnight camping trips.

12. Do applicants have to pay to travel to O'ahu for training? Is there a cost involved?
    Kupu provides HYCC Summer participants transportation to and from the neighboring islands for Team Leader and Team Training only.

    There is a $200 deposit to participate in the program; however, upon successful program completion, members can choose to have the $200 returned, the check destroyed, or donate the money to Kupu.
13. When will applicants know if they’ve been selected for a position in the HYCC Summer program?
HYCC staff will follow-up with applicants in the months of March and April. Final selections are made at the end of April and beginning of May and applicants will be notified of their status.

14. Can participation in the program count towards high school and college service credits?
Participation in this program can be recognized as service hours to meet high school and college requirements, but you will need to discuss this with your school administration to see if it can be approved first.

Daily packing list (basic, can vary by site):

- Sturdy hiking boots (no running shoes)
- Long pants for fieldwork (denim not recommended, leggings not allowed)
- Any personal medication

- Mosquito repellent (optional)
- Hat (optional)
- Chapstick (optional)
- Sunglasses (optional)
- Lunch, snacks, & water

*Kupu will provide one water bottle, reusable cutlery, and Kupu shirts for participants.*