

ULUAKEA

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What started as a love of going to the beach, grew to passion the study the complexity of the chemical and physical environment at the boundary between the land and the sea.

I was introduced to the beach by my Mom, who was a teacher. Then, Ed Ripley (IU) was the professor of my first geology class, where I learned that you could make a living camping and studying the environment. Finally, Doug Hammond (USC) showed me how my skills in chemistry and mathematics could be applied to understand the complex hydrology of the coastal ocean.

Passion is what I will keep doing, without thought of eating, sleeping. My passion includes some topics that I love to teach, including climatology and anything having to do with radioisotopes. Both of these are relevant topics (climate change, nuclear energy), and continuously evolving. I cannot just dust off these lectures from the crates. Instead, I take extra time to dive into the current research and incorporate some cutting edge studies.

When I program code, I step out of the real world and into a simplified version of the world I am trying to understand. It's the same feeling as looking at a painting by Monet, removing the details but keeping the overall impression that represents the real world. The challenge of pulling together the code, tweaking to capture the proper boundaries, and ultimately generating a new simulation is truly exhilarating.

Marine Science is deeply Hawaiian. The Hawaiian genealogy begins with in the sea with the coral polyp. The sea surrounds us, and sea-faring was an important part of Hawaiian culture. On the dry, leeward coasts, the presence of sweet groundwater was necessary for life. The groundwater that discharged into the coastal ocean supported limu and the other plants that formed the base of our coastal ecosystems, which still provide the bulk of the protein for many fishers. The land and its connection to the sea has long been important to Hawaiians.



Steven Colbert
Is out enjoying a day in the field, heading out to Kaloko Honokahau National Historic Park in Kona, Hawai'i Island.



Define Uluakea:

Uluakea is working towards teaching a Hawaiian worldview. At the basic level, that is teaching the meanings of place names, and identifying wahi pana when working nearby. It's