

Keena Curbelo

P.O. Box 777

keena@hawaii.edu

Volcano, Hawaii 96785

808-221-3346

Education

University of Hawai'i at Hilo, Hilo, HI Anticipated Graduation May 2019

Master of Science in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science

Thesis: *Drosophila suzukii* host preference across three elevational transects on Hawai'i Island

Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY Graduated May 2013

Bachelor of Arts in Biology

Concentration: Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior

Minor: Management & Business

Research Skills & Positions

Biological Research Technician- USDA Agricultural Research Service March 2019- Present

- Independently maintain laboratory populations of four species of tephritid fruit flies
- Prepare solutions and reagents for use in laboratory and field settings
- Extract both DNA and RNA from tissue for experiments
- Utilize molecular biology techniques such as PCR, gel electrophoresis, and bead cleanup
- Supervising Scientist: Dr. Sheina Sim; sheina.sim@ars.usda.gov

Biological Research Technician- USDA Agricultural Research Service May 2018- March 2019

- Develop, prepare, and modify liquid, gel, and dry insect diets for a variety of research projects
- Collaborate with supervising scientist to develop novel experiments and modify existing protocols
- Keep extensive and detailed records of experimental results and procedures
- 40 hours per week, GS 07 at \$42,462 annual salary
- Supervising Scientist: Dr. Chiou Ling Chang; stella.chang@ars.usda.gov

Ecological and Behavioral Analyses of the Invasive Insect *Drosophila suzukii*- UH Hilo Aug. 2015- Present

- Independently plan and execute a broad-scale survey of *D. suzukii* within HAVO
- Construct experiments to test host preference of *D. suzukii* in both field and laboratory settings
- Manage large amounts of data and present findings at scientific conferences
- 10-20 hours per week, unpaid
- Advisor: Dr. Donald Price; donald.price@unlv.edu

Evolution Research Assistant – Biology Department, Skidmore College Jan. 2012 – May 2013

- Gained proficiency in 2D and 3D multivariate analysis of morphological variation using landmark based geometric morphometrics
- Conducted secondary research; analyzed and reformatted existing projects
- Presented posters at the annual Collaborative Research Festival to the community
- 10-20 hours per week, unpaid
- Primary Investigator: Dr. Abby Drake; agd76@cornell.edu

Plant-Animal Interactions Research Assistant – Biology Department, Skidmore College Jan. 2012 – May 2012

- Analyzed metabolic rates in invertebrates
- Collaborated with faculty to perform analyses of decomposition in vertebrates in a forest environment
- 10-20 hours per week, unpaid
- Primary Investigator: Dr. Joshua Ness; jness@skidmore.edu

Applicable Skills

- Proficient in the programming language R, geneious, and JMP
- Knowledge of a wide range of statistical analyses

- Experience maintaining and calibrating specialized laboratory systems and equipment
- Expertise in utilizing online databases for data collection and scientific paper writing purposes
- Extensive experience collecting, rearing, and maintaining laboratory insect populations

Awards

First Place Graduate Student Poster, Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America	Apr. 2016
First Place Graduate Student Poster, UH Hilo TCBES Symposium	Apr. 2016
Honorable Mention, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program	Nov. 2015
Hau'oli Mau Loa Fellowship Recipient	Aug. 2015- May 2017