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Narrative Description of Activities of Environmental Organization

Overview

It is the mission, duty and purpose of Coral Reef Education Institute to address, educate, coordinate, and provide aid and relief to protect, monitor and restore our coral reef ecosystems on a local and global level.

Over recent decades, worldwide, over 50% of living coral has been lost on coral reefs due to a combination of local factors and global climate change. In 2016-17 bleaching alone caused the loss of half the shallow water corals on the northern 700 km of the Great Barrier Reef and substantial damage elsewhere. In 2015 The Hawaiian Island experienced the worst bleaching event on record, losing 50% of coral cover overall and 95% of Cauliflower Coral. Recovery from such events is a decades-long process. With bleaching now frequent, reefs have little time to rebuild.

As a result of reef ecosystem destruction, a quarter of all marine species are at risk, while the associated economic losses will expose hundreds of millions of people to decreasing food security and increased poverty.

Our purpose is to inspire and educate citizen scientists to identify negative human impacts on our ocean environments and offer solutions to those impacts. Coral Reef Education Institute provides on-line, in-person and in-field training, as well as a mobile response team to assist local communities and communities around the globe in our mutual effort to preserve oceans. These citizen scientists are trained to bring change in their communities and educate the like-minded. Our classes include education on coral biology, rehabilitation of corals through coral nursery management, coral monitoring and surveys, setting up Marine Preserves, eco-tourism, plastic pollution solutions, PADI scuba courses, identifying all negative human impacts that cause coral decline and the solutions to those impacts.

We bring together a global network of scientists, qualified trainers and instructors, ocean enthusiasts, individuals and communities that are dedicated to the health of our oceans. Through collective effort, we create solutions to protect, monitor and restore our coral reefs. We understand the importance of the “it takes a village” concept, and are building foundations of people to collaborate in this collective effort worldwide. Hawaii has a unique ocean ecosystem, so we are starting in our own backyard.

Education

Coral Reef Education Institute provides training and education on how to protect, monitor and restore our coral reef ecosystems through the dissemination of facts, charts, graphs, statistics and utilizing a qualified team of trainers, instructors, scientists, and coral biologist advisors. We provide this information by offering on-line, in-person and in-field training courses and presentations.

We plan to build a brick and mortar institute and offer educational courses and instruction by a team of qualified scientists, instructors and trainers who are experts in their field. This physical location will provide education, instruction, and career exploration on topics such as coral biology, rehabilitation of corals through coral nursery management, coral monitoring, setting up Marine Preserves, eco-tourism, plastic pollution solutions, PADI scuba courses, identifying negative human impacts that cause coral decline and the solutions to those impacts. In addition, we will have scuba equipment storage and repair facility, coral nursery equipment and facilities, dorm style housing for students, mess hall and bathroom facilities for staff and students. This location will be available to use by other professionals offering courses in related fields or for any purpose to better human behaviors. All proceeds from such use will be added to our general fund and shall be used to further our exempt status.

We will also provide education through our mobile response team detailed in the Narrative of our Activities: subtitled: Mobile response Team. We will be presenting live media interviews, lectures and slideshows at schools, libraries and other public venues. These courses and presentations focus on the causes, current efforts and solutions to coral mortality worldwide. They also highlight the geographical, economical, and social aspects of coral mortality and the solutions to restoring our coral reefs.

We take advantage of various social media outlets such as discussion forums, blogs and social networking sites. Some of the media outlets that have conducted interviews of or featured Coral Reef Education Institute are: West Hawaii Today (September 2019 Business Section)

We also chronicle our efforts and activities on the corporation’s website. One feature that will be incorporated into the website is educational essays written by professionals such as Coral Biologists, NOAA, Ocean Science Interns at UH Hilo and UH Manoa and activists in the same or related field(s).

By offering educational events as well as our publications and website, Coral Reef Education Institute is educating the public on subjects useful to individuals and beneficial to the community and is advocating and defending for coral reef education, protection, monitoring and restoration.

Mobile Response Team

Coral Reef Education Institute seeks out opportunities for community outreach through our mobile response team which involves sending volunteers(s) to fulfill our mission of raising awareness and funds for coral reef protection, monitoring and restoration by utilizing a variety of means such as beach clean-ups, conducting EcoDiver Programs, PADI scuba courses, mobile educational vans, in-situ coral reef nursery implementation and management, plastic pollution solution courses, assisting communities in creating marine protected areas and promoting eco-tourism.

Through these means, the issue of worldwide coral mortality will be highlighted and brought to the attention of diverse audiences. An example of this program is the Reef Check Foundation, a global coral reef monitoring foundation that teaches citizen scientists to monitor our coral reefs around the globe. Coral Reef Education Institute Directors are trainers of the Reef Check Eco-Diver Programs. More information about our efforts through this foundation can be found at www.reefcheck.org

The funds received through the entirety of the corporation's activities will be used exclusively for the charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and will not be used for personal gains of any sort.

Youth Outreach Programs

Coral Reef Education Institute will provide career exploration opportunities related to coral education, monitoring and restoration for youth in our local communities as well as youth in communities around the globe. We will work with teachers and educators in public and private sectors, NOAA and local agencies to create curriculum and materials on coral education, monitoring coral reefs and protecting and restoring coral reefs and get that curriculum into the classrooms so that it can be used to inspire our youth to be stewards of the land and sea. Coral Reef Education Institute will provide after school programs and camps focused on coral education, monitoring and restoration taught by qualified trainers, instructors and scientists.

Programs for Volunteers

At times, per the discretion of the board of directors, we may provide internships or volunteer opportunities which will provide opportunities for involvement in outreach activities and programs in order to have a greater impact for change. Some of the activities that volunteers may be involved in is providing basic education on topics such as coral biology, reef clean-ups, coral reef nursery management, coral reef monitoring, marine protected areas, eco-tourism, identifying negative human impacts to our ocean ecosystems and the solutions to those impacts. Such activities shall always be free of charge to participants and will not include compensation to the volunteers.

Coral Reef Monitoring Programs and Clinics

Coral reef Education Institute will organize and coordinate long term coral reef monitoring programs using various survey methodologies in order to raise funds and awareness for the cause. These coral reef monitoring programs and surveys will be carried on by our certified guides to assist novice surveyors to do a good deed by participating in a survey. We will also provide survey certifications for volunteers that would like to be part of a consistent team in long term monitoring projects in Hawaii and other parts of the world. The data collected will be uploaded into a database and provided to scientists around the globe to assist in coral reef management and restoration of coral reefs worldwide. These programs and clinics will be open to the public. All proceeds from such programs will be added to our general fund and shall be used to further our exempt status.

An average cost to train 8 EcoDiver Students in our 3 day program including boat and equipment rental is \$4000. 80% of our time and resources are allocated to programs and 20% for operational purposes.

Distribution to Other Organizations and Individuals

We do not fundraise for any specific organization and Coral Reef Education Institute is not organized solely to contribute or fundraise for any specific entity. However, at the discretion of the board of directors we may at times, choose to contribute to other organizations who share a similar mission and only if the contributions further our exempt status, with the objective to eliminate and alleviate coral mortality worldwide.

Coral Reef Education Institute may exercise its right under law to contribute to non 501 (c)(3) organizations only on the condition that Coral Reef Education Institute retains control over the use of the funds and maintaining records showing that the funds are used for exclusively charitable purposes in accordance to our mission.

Multimedia

It is our goal to bring awareness from every medium possible and this does not exclude documentaries and photos of our activities, projects, programs and expeditions. By documenting and reporting our efforts we intend to broaden our outreach. These multimedia features will be recorded by our volunteers during the aforementioned activities and will be available to the public.

Foreign Activities

In general, our foreign activities can be summed up into four categories: Coral monitoring programs, contributions, coral nursery management, and educational programs.

- Foreign coral monitoring programs will include our EcoDiver survey programs and have been detailed in the Narrative of our Activities: subtitled: Mobile response Team and Coral Reef Monitoring Programs and Clinics.
- Foreign contributions will include assistance given to individuals or organizations outside of the United States which have been selected by the board of directors after conducting due diligence and a thorough investigation. The process of selection is in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations concerning our exempt status such as collecting information (i.e. physical address, phone number, mailing address, website, relationships with other organizations, financial standing which includes past and present, and governance).
- Foreign coral nursery management will include our efforts to provide education and implementation of in-situ coral nurseries to restore coral reefs and has been detailed in our Narrative of our Activities subtitled: Mobile Response Team
- Foreign educational programs will include our efforts to provide educational based lectures, slideshows, and in-field training and instruction as has been detailed in our Narrative of our Activities subtitled: Education.