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School of Life Sciences  
University of Hawai'i  
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[Lab Page](#)

## Educational Preparation

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**The University of Hawai'i.** 6<sup>th</sup> year PhD Candidate in Zoology. August 2018 – Present.

Advisor: Robert C. Thomson

**The University of Florida.** Cum Laude BSc in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. Completed May 2017.

## Graduate Coursework Summary

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Fall 2018	Seminar: Zoology Literature
Fall 2018	Foundations of Ecology and Evolution I
Spring 2019	Foundations of Ecology and Evolution II
Fall 2019	Pono Science
Fall 2019	Seminar: Ecology
Fall 2019	Topics in Conservation Biology
Fall 2021	Advanced Statistics in R
Spring 2021	Seminar: Zoology Literature

## Teaching Experience

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Fall 2023	BIOL 375: Genetics Lab	UH Manoa
Spring 2023	BIOL 375: Genetics Lab	UH Manoa
Fall 2022	BIOL 375: Genetics Lab	UH Manoa

## Publications

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**Alvarez V.,** Fisher, R., Thomson, R. *In prep.* War-induced range expansion of the house gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*) across the Pacific. Journal of Biogeography.

**Alvarez V.,** Thomson, R. *In Prep.* Inference of demographic history and genetic signatures in human-mediated species introductions: a case study of the brown anole (*Anolis sagrei*) invasion. Journal of Molecular Ecology.

**Alvarez V.,** Fisher S., Barley A., Donmoyer K., Thomson R., Fisher R. 2023. On the origin and current distribution of the Oceania snake-eyed skink (*Cryptoblepharus poecilopleurus*) in the Hawaiian Archipelago. Journal of Pacific Science.

Hargrove J.S., Austin J.D., **Alvarez V.,** Dockendorf K., Laurretta M.V. 2022. Estimates of Largemouth Bass hatchery contributions via parentage-based tagging. North American Journal of Fisheries Management.

**Alvarez V.,** Gore J.A., Pylant C., and Austin J.D. 2018. The conservation genetic status of the Florida bonneted bat (*Eumops floridanus*). University of Florida Journal of Undergraduate Research.

## Funding and Awards (Total: \$233,380)

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Society for the Study of Evolution AIBS Congressional Visits Day and Training Grant \$4,000	May 2023
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ARCS Foundation Koenig Award in Zoology \$5,000	April 2023
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American Association of University Women Dissertation Fellowship ( <a href="#">Fellow Page</a> ) \$20,000	July 2022-2023
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program \$138,000	Sept. 2018-2023
UH Manoa Zoology Jessie D. Kay Award \$10,000	February 2022
NSF INTERN Non-Academic Supplemental Funding Award \$38,197	Feb.-July 2022
UH Manoa Carson Fellowship, Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology \$5,000	April 2021
American Philosophical Society Lewis and Clark Fund for Exploration and Field Research \$5,000	April 2021
UH Manoa E. Alison Kay Research Award, School of Life Sciences \$1,000	December 2020
Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Fund of the American Museum of Natural History \$2,948	November 2020
Hawaii Conservation Conference Student Scholarship Program \$185 (2020 conference registration fee)	September 2020
UH Manoa Dai Ho Chun Graduate Fellowship \$1,500	April 2020
American Society for Ichthyology and Herpetology Cashner Student Award \$1,000	March 2020
UH Manoa Zoology Outstanding Service Award \$1,000	February 2020
UH Manoa Graduate Student Organization Research Grant \$2,000	January 2020
Society for Advancement of Hispanics and Native Americans in Science Conference Sponsorship Grant \$550 (conference registration fee)	August 2019
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County Student Collections Study Award \$1000	June 2019
Outstanding Undergraduate Oral Presentation, Biological Sciences, Florida Academy of Sciences	2017
Doris Earl and Verna Lowe Scholarship, Dept. of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida	August 2016
Jennings Scholarship, Dept. of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida	February 2016
Minorities in Natural Resource Conservation, Travel Stipend for Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference	October 2015
Study Abroad Scholarship, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, University of Florida \$500	March 2015

## Other Publications

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**Alvarez V.,** Bailes L., “Extinction and Hawaii: a complex relationship” Ka Leo [UH Manoa] Online. 27 Oct. 2020.

**Alvarez V.,** “No More Plastic! Bill 40 Bans Many Single Use Plastics on O‘ahu” Ka Leo [UH Manoa] Issue 20  
Volume 114, 10 March 2020, p. 11.

Alvarez V., “Bioplastics to the Rescue?” Ka Leo [UH Manoa] Issue 09 Volume 114, 10 Sep. 2019, p.10.

Alvarez V., “Lizard Information Guide” Wahiawa Botanical Garden Brochure, 06 Jun. 2019

## Presentations

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V. Alvarez. 2023. The invasion of the brown anole to Hawai‘i and California. ARCS Foundation Symposium. Honolulu, HI

V. Alvarez, R. Fisher, S. Fisher, R. Thomson. 2022. Invasion route reconstruction of the brown anole (*Anolis sagrei*) to Hawai‘i and California. Joint Meeting of Ichthyology and Herpetology. Spokane, Washington.

J. Hargrove, V. Alvarez. 2022. Largemouth Bass hatchery contributions quantified via parentage-based tagging. American Fisheries Society Meeting. Spokane, Washington.

V. Alvarez. 2021. Timing the invasion of the snake-eyed skink (*Cryptoblepharus poecilopleurus*) to Hawai‘i. Tester Memorial Symposium. Honolulu, HI

V. Alvarez. 2019. Detecting Hawai‘i’s herpetofaunal invasions: A citizen science approach. Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science Conference. Honolulu, HI

V. Alvarez, M. Jalalkhan, J. Tofan. 2017. Developing global citizen sciences for conservation through pollinator assessment. Environmental Sustainability Research Conference, Derby, U.K. (poster)

V. Alvarez, J.A. Gore, C. Pylant, and J.D. Austin. 2017. The conservation genetic status of the Florida bonneted bat (*Eumops floridanus*). Florida Academy of Sciences Conference. Lakeland, FL

## Other Presentations

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V. Alvarez. 2023. AIBS Bioscience Talks Podcast. [Episode Link Here](#)

V. Alvarez. 2023. Talk Story Tuesdays: History of Lizards in Hawai‘i. American Association of University Women: Honolulu Chapter. [Link to details.](#)

V. Alvarez. 2020. Plastic in Paradise: Hawai‘i’s battle with the world’s rubbish. Nerd Nite Honolulu: October. Honolulu, HI

## Recent Field Experience

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| 2022 | Volcanoes National Park, Hawai‘i Island— Genetic sampling of the Oceania snake-eyed skink ( <i>Cryptoblepharus poecilopleurus</i> )            |
| 2021 | Kauai, Molokai, Hawaii Island- Genetic sampling of the brown anole ( <i>Anolis sagrei</i> )  |
| 2021 | Maui Island- Genetic sampling of the Oceania snake-eyed skink ( <i>Cryptoblepharus poecilopleurus</i> )  |
| 2019 | O‘ahu and Kaua‘i Islands – Genetic sampling of two invasive lizards ( <i>Anolis sagrei</i> , <i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i> )                    |
| 2017 | Derby, England – Pollinator species richness and density assessments with University of Derby  |
| 2017 | Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Great Sand Dunes National Parks – Pollinator species richness and density assessments with Colorado State University |
| 2016 | Fort Myers, Florida – Florida bonneted bat genetic sampling with FL Fish and Wildlife  |
| 2015 | Queensland, Australia – Conservation and Biodiversity Research with University of Florida  |

## Research

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NSF INTERN Program at USGS San Diego: On the origin of the Oceania snake-eyed skink ( <i>Cryptoblepharus poecilopleurus</i> ) in the Hawaiian Archipelago.	Feb.-July 2022
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Research Intern: Pollinator Research Team, University of Derby, U.K.	June-Aug. 2017
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Research Intern: Rocky Mountain Science and Sustainability Research Network, Colorado State University	May-June 2017
Undergraduate Thesis: The conservation genetic status of the Florida bonneted bat ( <i>Eumops floridanus</i> ), Advised by Dr. James Austin	May 2017
Research Technician (paid position): Austin Lab, Molecular Ecology, University of Florida	May 2016- 2017
Research Volunteer: Austin Lab, Molecular Ecology, University of Florida	Oct. 2015-May 2016
Field Research Volunteer: Fletcher Lab, Ecology and Conservation Across Landscapes, University of Florida	Aug.-December 2015
Study Abroad: Australia, Conservation and Biodiversity Research, University of Florida	May-July 2015

## **Mentorship**

Dominique Wenzler-Steves, Biology Undergraduate Student	May 2021-May 2022
Ashlee Lum, Cell and Molecular Biology Undergraduate Student	May 2021-May 2022

## **Service**

Graduate Student Representative— Zoology Program, School of Life Sciences, UH Manoa (August 2021-Present)
Organizer— iNaturalist City Nature Challenge: Honolulu <a href="#">2023 Project Link Here</a> (October 2019-Present)
Policy Subcommittee Member— Society of Conservation Biology Hawai'i Chapter (September 2019-2022)
Academic Affairs Organizer— Academic Labor United, September (2019-2020)
Science Communications Subcommittee Member— Society of Conservation Biology Hawai'i Chapter (Aug. 2023)
Zoology Grants and Awards Representative— Graduate Student Organization (December 2018-2022)
Core Member— Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i (2018-Present)
Abstract Reviewer— Hawai'i Conservation Conference (March 2020)
Department of Biology Weekly Coffee Social Organizer— (August 2018-2022)
Audio/Visual Coordinator— Tester Symposium (April 2019)
Zoology Representative on Selection Committee— Graduate Student Organization Merit Based Awards (March-April 2019)
Field Assistant— Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Babcock-Webb WMA (April & December 2016, August 2017)
Invasive Species Removal— City of Denver Parks and Recreation Department, Colorado (July 2017)
Invasive Species Removal— Yungaburra, Australia (May-July 2015)
FFWCC Yearly Manatee Surveys— Crystal River, FL (January 2014)
Outreach Volunteer— C.R.E.W. Land and Water Trust, Fort Myers, FL. (November 2013-June 2014)
Education Volunteer— Wings of Hope Program, Fort Myers, FL (January-May 2013)

## **Professional Societies**

January 2020- Present	American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists
September 2019- Present	Graduate Women in Science: Hawai'i Chapter
September 2019- Present	Society for the Study of Evolution
August 2019- Present	American Association of University Women: Hawai'i Chapter

August 2019- Present	Society for Advancement of Hispanics and Native Americans in Science
March 2019- Present	Society for Conservation Biology

## **Honors**

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University of Florida— Cum Laude Bachelor of Science, May 2017

University Scholars Program— University of Florida, February 2016-May 2017

Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society— Florida Gulf Coast University, January 2013-May 2014