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NEWS For Immediate Release

Experience the “real” Hawaii

The California-based, nonprofit organization, The Nature Corps is offering a rare opportunity to go behind the scenes to work with park biologists to save the endangered and rare flora in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. This unique volunteer vacation to the Big Island of Hawaii is scheduled for August 2-9 2006.

Feral animals and the invasion of non-native vegetation have devastated Hawaii's delicate ecosystems. As a result, many researchers refer to Hawaii as the “extinction capital of the world”. In 1996 the Nature Corps adopted important habitats that contain threatened plant and animal species. Since its volunteers adopted this rare ecosystems The Nature Corps has witnessed a substantial improvement as these habitats slowly revert to their unimpacted state . More volunteers are needed to continue this important preservation effort.

Volunteers will spend half of their time working to protect threatened flora and restore this tropical paradise. During the other half of the tour volunteers will learn about & explore the natural wonders of Hawaii. Volunteers will tour the entire island, exploring areas off the beaten path. You'll visit spectacular waterfalls, lush rain forests, remote seacoasts, snorkel around coral reefs teeming with undersea life, and view glowing lava as it cascades into a moonlit ocean.

The Nature Corps is a non-profit organization whose mission is to recruit volunteers to help preserve the splendor of our National Parks. Over its 19 year history the organization has donated \$3 million dollars of labor to critical conservation projects. For its efforts the organization has won the Travel and Leisure “Mark of Innovation” Award and the National Park Service “Partnership Achievement” Award.

For information call Mark Landon at The Nature Corps at (805) 434-0299 or visit their website at: www.thenaturecorps.org/vol-hawaii.htm.