

Marcia and John Harter · 1050 Larrabee Ave, #104/353, Bellingham, WA, 98225

February 1, 2023

Aloha Kaua'i Friends,

As some of you may know, Koa, our black Labrador, worked as a conservation dog on the Hanalei Wildlife Refuge when we lived on Kaua'i. His job was to locate birds that had been affected by botulism, dead or diseased, so they could be removed from the refuge before the infected carcass resulted in the infection of other birds or in time for the diseased birds to be rehabilitated.

There is now an additional conservation dog project proposed for Kaua'i. This project will use certified conservation dogs to locate downed shearwater and petrel chicks that have been disoriented by the artificial lights of Kaua'i as they make their first flights from their mountain burrows to the sea. You may be familiar with the Save Our Shearwater group doing this work formerly headquartered at the Kaua'i Humane Society and now in Wailua. It is expected that by adding dogs, trained to find shearwater and petrel fledglings, the percentage of saved chicks can be increased dramatically. It had been hoped that the project would start for the fledging season in 2022, but for a variety of reasons that did not happen. It is now rescheduled to start with the fledging season in fall 2023.

Although we didn't get to participate in the seabird project last fall, we did have a wonderful time on Kaua'i and were able to do some conservation dog work in the Hanalei Wildlife Refuge, one of our very favorite places.

Koa has been invited again to participate in the project. He will be part of a training program this summer and hopefully will be able to work for at least a couple of months during the 2023 fledging season on Kaua'i, September 15 through December 15.

This, however, depends on us finding housing. I know finding housing on Kaua'i is difficult. I am contacting folks that we know to inquire if any of you know of any accommodations that would be available for John, Marcia and Koa from about October 15 through December 15? And, we realize we may have to move from one place to another.

Our preferences are for a two bedroom two bath home or condo, near the beach, and probably on the north or east shore as I think most of our work will be in those areas. However, that might change, and we would certainly consider something on the south shore. We have lived on Kaua'i, we know it is expensive, and are prepared for that.

If you know of something, or have a lead, we would certainly appreciate hearing from you. Please feel free to pass this message along to others that you think might be able to help.

You can contact us as follows:

Marcia Harter, phone or text: 808-635-6562, marciaharter@gmail.com

John Harter, phone or text: 808-635-6568, jrharter3@gmail.com

Thank you so much for anything you can do to help us in the search.

With gratitude,

Marcia, John, and Koa