

**University of Hawaii at Manoa:** Graduate Research Assistantship (Ph.D.) position (50% appointment) in molecular ecology / plant sciences.

Funding for Ph.D. project is available through the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) in the [Department of Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences](#). This project will address potential hybridization and gene flow between agricultural crops and native species in Hawaii. The Hawaiian Islands are home to a unique and diverse assemblage of endemic plant species. Much of the native flora is either threatened or endangered, which has made the conservation of these species a priority. Due to the sensitivity of Hawaii's botanical resources, concern has been voiced that hybridization and gene flow between agricultural crops and native species may exacerbate the precarious position of rare endemic species. Molecular markers (AFLP's), seed viability and back-crossing will be used to quantify outcrossing compatibility and fitness of hybrids. This project primarily includes cross pollination and pollen drift assessment, therefore, experience with plant biology and cross pollination is essential. A Masters degree in a biological field and knowledge of risk assessment procedures, and interpretation of risk models is desirable but not essential. Experience with molecular genetic methods and analyses (e.g. AFLP, PCR, gel electrophoresis, automated sequencing/genotyping) is desirable but not essential.

The candidate will work under the supervision of [Dr. Ania Wieczorek](#) and [Dr. Cliff Morden](#). Starting date is in August 2010, and the salary (\$25,000/year) is for a 50% GRA, plus a tuition waiver and benefits. This appointment is renewable for up to three years, depending on performance and availability of funds.

Applicants should provide a full CV, including previous experience, a list of undergraduate courses and grades, a maximum 1-page description of research interests, three letters of reference, and desired start date. There is no fixed application deadline, but position will be filled once a suitable candidate is found. Potential applicants are encouraged to submit their applications as soon as possible. Applications should be sent (preferably by e-mail) to Dr. Ania Wieczorek ([ania@hawaii.edu](mailto:ania@hawaii.edu)). In your initial contact, please send the following information: 1) a cover letter outlining your research interests and experience, 2) a detailed CV, 3) contact information for at least 2 academic referees, 4) GPAs, GRE score, and TOFEL scores (for foreign students)