

# **Kim Mayfield**

Scientist at Global Algae Innovations



## **Educational Background**

B.Sc. Global Environmental Science, UH Manoa

Ph.D. Ocean Sciences, UC Santa Cruz

## **Job Search**

I was searching for jobs on Kaua`i and heard about GAI from word-of-mouth.

## **Current Position**

As a scientist in a small company, I have diverse responsibilities. I began my career focusing on developing methods for analyzing water chemistry that was of interest for raising the algae. Then, however, my focus shifted to innovating methods that extract oil, protein, and other biochemical components from harvested algae.

## **Key Skills for My Job**

My work involves a lot of mass balancing, which I had a background in from isotope geochemistry. I also had experience in nutrient and trace element concentration analyses from my academic background, which are fundamental to being a chemist in an algal biofuels company.

### **Best Part of My Job**

I like the impact that my work can make on the world; increasing the economic efficiency of producing carbon-neutral oils and protein is an exciting and rewarding field to be in.

### **Advice for Geoscience Students**

I recommend that grad students seriously consider interning with companies before completing their Ph.D. and learn Python fluently. Also, I recommend applying to a diverse array of jobs – you never know which route your professional career may take.

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