



## Recycling at MCBH by Karen Bryan

Believe it or not, this is a difficult topic to cover on a military base. There are very different recycling guidelines between Base housing and industrial areas on MCBH. Quite frankly, it can be confusing, and that leads to challenges for all of us. Let's try to break it down and sort it out.

First, residents that live off Base and Base housing residents' recycling is managed by the City and County of Honolulu. They have a blue "cart" for recyclables that are collected every other week. Put recyclables including plastic containers marked with #1 and #2 plastic codes, clean corrugated cardboard, white and colored office paper, paper bags, glass bottles and jars, all metal cans, and newspaper in the blue cart. All recyclables must be clean with no lids or caps. Do not bag recyclables; it's ok to mix them. See the above poster for recyclable, green and trash sorting guidance. Here's another tip: Place a collection container for mixed recyclables next to your rubbish can for your family's convenience. Sometimes, it's difficult to tell what kinds of plastics to recycle and why, so we just put all the plastic in the blue recycling container. But, this leads to wasted time and money. Check this link to get a better understanding of which plastics to recycle:

[https://www.opala.org/solid\\_waste/curbside\\_plastics.htm](https://www.opala.org/solid_waste/curbside_plastics.htm) .

Recycling guidelines for the barracks and units in the industrial areas on Marine Corps Base Hawai'i may seem stricter than usual, but it's truly necessary because we pride ourselves on having high environmental standards. We have an incredible Recycling Center that helps MCBH recycle tons of glass, cardboard, paper, and metals such as brass from shell casings. Here's a link to a recent article that lists almost everything that can be recycled: <https://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/News/News-Article-Display/Article/2088255/recycling-in-paradise/> . The article also provides guidance for what to do with items like e-waste and tires. Very soon, the Recycling Center will be rolling out recycling trailers (picture above) to certain areas to make recycling more convenient.

Mālama i ka 'āina—care for and live in harmony with the land. Earth Day every day.

**Activity:** Post photos of your recycling efforts in the comments below. Random drawings for participant prizes will be held after COVID-19 social distancing is lifted.