

We are the Natural Resources Stewards by Lance Bookless

The Environmental Division's Natural Resources Program (NR Program) manages species at risk and their habitats to prevent listing that could affect military readiness. The NR Program's goal is to support the military's combat readiness mission by ensuring continued access to realistic habitat conditions supporting mission essential testing, training, and operations, while simultaneously working to ensure the long-term sustainability of Hawaii's priceless land and ocean resources we are entrusted.

MCBH Environmental Division's natural resources program manages, protect and conserve DoD's valuable natural resources. As the fifth-largest federal land management agency, DoD manages over 28 million acres of land at more than 5,579 locations. That is the equivalent land area of the state of Pennsylvania. MCBH's NR Program supports the military's testing and training mission by protecting its biological resources on its 4,700 acres, which include MCBH Kaneohe Bay, MCTAB, Camp Smith, Pu'uloa, Pearl City Annex and Manana housing. MCBH's properties are rich in natural resources that include wetlands, rare coral reef ecosystems, rare plants, vulnerable seabird colonies, 11 miles of picturesque coastlines, and threatened and endangered species – both marine and terrestrial. The natural resources staff provides technical expertise and oversight over the at-large, feral, and nuisance animal control program, the airfield's Bird Air Strike Hazard (BASH) program, and base landscaping.

MCBH demonstrates good stewardship of its unique natural resources by properly managing and safeguarding imperiled species, critical habitats, combatting invasive species, managing its landscape, reducing fire risk, and other key natural resources issues on base. By properly caring for our natural resources we can avoid or minimize mission impacts that could otherwise result in natural resources related restrictions or delays to training and military operations.

Activity: Suggest ways to enhance your favorite outdoor area on MCBH while keeping it natural and protecting the habitat. Post it in the comments below. Random drawings for prizes will be held when social distancing measures have been lifted. #NRMCBH

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