

ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN

A collection of social media posts from the previous months and announcements for upcoming events

August-October 2021

Marine Corps Base Hawaii Environmental Compliance & Protection Division (ECPD)



Naupaka plant. PC: Karen Bryan



Earth Day Every Day



Protecting Our Resources

Posted: July 31, 2021



Marine Corps Base Hawaii

July 31 · 🌐

Protecting Our Resources 🌿

May through November is nesting season for green sea turtles.

Artificial lights can disorient hatchlings and discourage nesting females from coming ashore. Some streetlights near beaches may be de-energized and turned off during sea turtle nesting season. Efforts are underway to retrofit streetlights with sea turtle friendly lighting.

Please take caution and drive safely in these areas. If you see an adult or hatchling sea turtle on MCBH, please stay 50 ft. away and report it to MCBH Natural Resources at 808-257-7129/7000.

Mahalo!

#WeAreMCBH #ProtectResources



👍❤️ 97

9 Shares

Turtle Nest Excavations

Posted: September 4, 2021



Marine Corps Base Hawaii

September 4 · 🌐

Over the past months, turtle nest excavations have taken place around Marine Corps Base Hawaii! 🐢

The natural wildlife is a precious resource to both MCBH and the people of Hawaii, and MCBH takes seriously our stewardship role of protecting these resources.

(U.S. Marine Corps photos by Lance Cpl. Samantha Sanchez and Lance Cpl. Brandon Aultman)

#WeAreMCBH



Weed Warrior Volunteer Opportunities

Posted: September 4, 2021

SEPT. 4-11, 2021

MCBH PATRIOT WEEK

As a community we *honor the victims* of 9/11 with *acts of service* through

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

★ **ADOPT A HWY PROGRAM** ★

For more information contact
Jacqueline Freeland at
Jacqueline.Freeland@usmc.mil or 257-8845.



★ **BASE CHAPEL FOOD DRIVE** ★

Drop off food for those in need at the Base Commissary
from Sept. 4 - 11.
For more information contact Lt. Edmilson Villalba
at 257-2734.

★ **MCBH WEED WARRIOR** ★

The endangered species aboard MCBH need your help!
Assist in controlling highly invasive vegetation.
For more information contact Lance Bookless
at 257-7000.

★ **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** ★

Help build homes for others in need!
For more information contact Danny Hayes at
danny.r.hayes@usmc.mil or call 257-8876.

★ **KAWAINUI MARSH RESTORATION** ★

Help tackle invasive species within the Kawainui Marsh
on Sept. 4 & 11 from 0830-1200.
For more information contact Emily Hauck
at emily.hauck.ctr@usmc.mil.



★ **HE'EIA ESTURARY RESTORATION** ★

Help clear invasive plant species from the stream and shoreline
on Sept. 8 from 0845-1200.
For more information contact volunteer@huihawaii.org
or call 277-5611.

Scan the QR Code for more information or visit: <https://go.usa.gov/xF6fP> (Case sensitive)

Meet Lōli`i

Posted: September 6, 2021

In June 2021, the Hawaiian monk seal pup Lōli`i was transferred to Marine Corps Base Hawaii for protection from crowds on Waikiki beach. Although a baby seal may sound like a great tourist attraction, the conservation and protection of marine wildlife is important, and that includes minimizing the chances of young, curious monk seals becoming habituated to people. The natural wildlife and landscape is a precious resource to both MCBH and the people of Hawaii, and the installation takes seriously their stewardship role of protecting these resources.



“What happens after about six weeks of nursing is the mother seal abruptly leaves,” said Angela Amlin, a Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Coordinator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). “Then you have a young monk seal pup on a beach by itself, and it’s in this phase where it’s learning a lot.”

In a heavily populated environment, such as the crowds in Waikiki, a seal learns to be social with not only other seals, but humans as well. Young, recently weaned pups, like Lōli`i, can be particularly curious.

“They can become conditioned, and can even attempt to play and engage in other seal social behavior with people,” said Amlin. “This is really concerning because once they get bigger, conditioned seals can end up injuring people seriously.”

A seal’s ability to survive in the wild can be negatively impacted by its social engagement with humans. “We were really concerned about keeping both Lōli`i safe in

the wild and keeping the public safe,” said Amlin. “We know from past experiences that if we move seals at this young age, they do just as well as seals that remain on their natal (birth) beach.”

Relocating a monk seal is serious business. NOAA extensively assesses risks to the seal when evaluating relocation and potential relocation sites. Some of these risks include the probability of human interaction, fishing hooks and nets, and off-leash pets. “In May we got a call from NOAA,” said Lance Bookless, the senior natural resources manager for MCBH Environmental Compliance and Protection Division. “They asked us if we would be willing to release the pup here, based on their risk assessment.”

On June 10, 2021, Lōli`i was transported to MCBH, and released on a wildlife protected beach. “[NOAA] collected blood and tissue samples; they attached a GPS transmitter to the seal; and they put identifying tags on its two flippers,” said Bookless. The importance of tracking these seals is to ensure that they remain safe, despite the dangers around them. “They are an extremely endangered marine mammal. There’s only about fourteen-hundred of them left in the wild,” said Bookless. “They estimate roughly three hundred of them inhabit the main Hawaiian Islands.”

With efforts like this relocation, there is hope for a brighter future for the Hawaiian monk seal. “The whole purpose of trying to protect them is so they can rebuild the population, and someday they may be able to be taken off the endangered list,” said Bookless.

Partnering with organizations like NOAA is important to MCBH’s mission of protecting and preserving the wildlife of Hawaii. As a reminder, please view Hawaii wildlife responsibly. NOAA recommends and MCBH requires staying at least 50 feet away from monk seals—both on land and in water.

Please report sightings of Hawaiian monk seals or injured marine mammals and sea turtles to the NOAA Marine Wildlife hotline: 888-256-9840. (U.S. Marine Corps story by Lance Cpl. Isaiah Hill. Photo courtesy of NOAA Fisheries and Hawaii Marine Animal Response)

Spill Response Exercise

Posted: September 7, 2021



The installation's Environmental Compliance and Protection Division and Waterfront Ops conducted a spill response exercise this month to create an awareness of potential hazards and problems associated with an oil spill and to evaluate established plans and procedures to respond, mitigate, and report these types of spills. The natural wildlife and landscape is a precious resource to both MCBH and the people of Hawaii, and we take seriously our stewardship role of protecting these resources.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

October 18-22, 2021: MCBH Base-wide Cleanup

October 29, 2021: MCBH Trick or Trot/Fall Harvest Fair at Mokapu Mall, 1700-2000

For more ECPD information visit: <https://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/Offices-Staff/S-4-Installations-Logistics/Facilities/Environmental/>