

# ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN

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

**August 2020**

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



Recycling trailers will soon be placed at the Marine Mart and other convenient locations aboard MCBH where people can easily place recyclables in the appropriate bins.



Earth Day Every Day



## Why should we recycle?

By Karen Bryan

Continuing with our recycling series in the June edition of our newsletter, here are more reasons to recycle:

Recycling can help reduce landfill waste by repurposing and reusing items. When the garbage truck comes to pick up your rubbish, they take it to the landfill. Landfills reach capacity over time and can harm the environment through ground water pollution. When we recycle more, we avoid sending things to the landfill that may take hundreds of years to break down. Cardboard is one of the most commonly recycled items never sent to the landfill at MCBH unless it is dirty (i.e. pizza boxes). MCBH recycled over 445,000 lbs. of cardboard last year. We've ordered 36 new slotted cardboard bins to place around MCBH and at a units' request, so recycling cardboard will be more convenient. In the photo above, cardboard is delivered to the MCBH Recycling Center and sorted before being prepared to ship to a recycler.



Finally, recycling creates jobs. For each job at an incinerator or landfill, there are 10 jobs in recycling and 25 jobs in manufacturing based upon recycling. The recycling industry currently has more workers than the US auto industry. So, fill up those recycling bins folks! You'll help stimulate the economy, protect the environment, reduce pollution, save energy and money, and create jobs by recycling. Earth Day every day at MCBH!

In this photo, recycle center staff process a shipment of recently delivered cardboard (pictured from left to right: Chad Fukinaga, Joe Lapera, Gary Reavis, and Jovita Ambrosia).

For more information about the Recycling Center at MCBH, visit:

<https://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/Offices-Staff/S-4-Installations-Environment-Logistics/Environmental/Recycling-and-Solid-Waste/> .



## Digging is NOT permitted at MCBH

By Karen Bryan

Digging or taking sand from the beaches or any area on Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) is prohibited. With this article, we hope to bring awareness to the issue, explain why we cannot dig or take sand from the beaches at MCBH, and tell you how to get sand.

The most important reason not to dig or remove sand is because the beaches and sand dunes on all MCBH properties are ancient archaeological sites. Prior to Western contact in the 1700s, native Hawaiians who lived at Mōkapu Peninsula, Waimānalo, and Pu‘uloa buried their loved ones in the sand. If we dig in sandy areas, human skeletal remains or “iwi” could be unearthed. Prior to strict environmental protocols to protect natural and cultural resources, sand was moved from the coastal areas to inland areas for various construction projects. As a result, we cannot dig anywhere on MCBH without an environmental assessment and/or permit. Today, the shoreline of MCBH is designated as the Mōkapu Burial Area and is culturally sensitive. Please respect those who came before, and do not remove sand or stones from where they lie.

There are several environmental reasons not to remove sand. You may have noticed erosion at Ft. Hase and Hale Koa Beaches where the dunes are being washed away during high tides? Natural erosion from wind-driven waves is taking a toll on the shoreline at MCBH. Removing sand from the beach could accelerate coastal erosion and make the beach unsuitable for training or recreational purposes. We all enjoy relaxing at MCBH beaches, so please leave the sand and dunes undisturbed.

Our beaches are home to federally protected marine life. Hawaiian green sea turtles and other species of turtles nest on MCBH beaches. Green sea turtles were once endangered due to human impacts such as poaching and harvesting of eggs, incidental catch from the fishing industry, entanglement or ingestion of marine debris, and habitat destruction. The green sea turtle population is recovering as a result of enforcement of the Endangered Species act of 1978; however, they remain listed as threatened in Hawaii and are still considered endangered in other regions. 2020 has been an unprecedented year for Hawaiian green sea turtle nesting on MCBH properties. Be alert for turtle tracks and/or fenced areas containing nests. If you accidentally disturb a nest, you face jail time and a fine of up to \$15,000.

Now that you have a better understanding of why you shouldn't dig or remove sand from the beaches, where can you get sand for sandbags or pits? Contact Self Help at (808) 257-3186 to see if sand is available. State law prohibits the removal of sand from any beach in Hawaii; so, if sand is not available from Self Help, you must purchase bagged sand commercially at a building or home improvement retailer. Another option is to purchase bulk quantities of loose sand (1 ton minimum) from local building suppliers. Please respect wildlife and cultural remains—don't dig on Base or remove sand from our beaches. For more information about natural resources and the cultural history of MCBH, please visit:

<https://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/Offices-Staff/S-4-Installations-Environment-Logistics/Environmental/> .



## Prevent flooding during heavy rains while protecting the environment

By Karen Bryan

In Hawaii, hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30. It's important to be aware of the risks for our safety. Be prepared to take shelter and have the recommended essential supplies on hand. Heavy rains that accompany tropical storm systems can be problematic for our storm water system when the drains become clogged with leaf litter and rubbish. Keep trash and other items picked up. Tie down rubbish bins or put them in your garage during high winds. Not only will we have less debris to pick up when the storm clears, we'll be less likely to have flooded roads due to clogged storm water drains. The storm water system leads directly to our surrounding waters, we all play a role in keeping our ocean and beaches clean. Earth Day every day at MCBH.



PC: Karen Bryan

## Register and Leash Your Pets

By Karen Bryan

Free-roaming cats and dogs are a threat to terrestrial and marine wildlife. Native ground-nesting birds make their homes in shallow, underground burrows. Many birds are federally listed as threatened or endangered, so predation by loose cats and dogs is a serious concern. You can help by following Base Order P5233.2, Base Pet and Wildlife Regulations:

- Register your pets with the Animal Control Officer (257-1821).
- All pets must be microchipped.
- Keep cats inside your home.
- Report free-roaming cats to:
  - Animal Control Officer (257-1821) or
  - Natural Resources staff (257-7129/7131)
- Dogs are **not** allowed at the beaches between 1000 and 1500.
- Pets **must** be kept on a leash and under your physical control outside of your home.
- Dogs are **never** allowed in the Nu'upia Ponds Wildlife Management Area (WMA).
- Adhere to signs and fencing at the boundaries of all Wildlife Management Areas.
- Contact the Animal Control Officer immediately if your pet gets loose (257-1821).

For questions about WMA's or to report feral cats, contact the Natural Resources Managers at:  
257-7000 or 257-7129.

Mahalo for helping to protect the wildlife at MCBH.



## Announcements and Upcoming Events

### Annual Water Quality Report

The water quality report describes where our water comes from, what was detected in the water during the past year, and how the results compare to safe drinking water standards. The 2020 Annual Water Quality Report for MCBH is available at: <https://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/Offices-Staff/S-4-Installations-Environment-Logistics/Environmental/Water-Quality/>.

### Unit Environmental Compliance Coordinator (ECC) Meeting

The next meeting for Unit ECC's will be held virtually on August 12, 2020 from 0900-1100. ECC's: check your email for more information.

### Weed Warriors

The Navy Medicine Readiness Training Command (NMRTC) from Pearl Harbor's Makalapa Clinic joined forces with MCBH's Commanding Officer, Col Koumparakis, Base SgtMaj Williams, and the Environmental Division on July 25 to remove debris and invasive plants from the Nu'upia Ponds Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Removing invasive plants from the WMA ensures that ground-nesting birds have adequate habitat to thrive. The next Weed Warriors event will be held on August 22, 2020 and will resume the usual bimonthly schedule (every other month) going forward. We will divide into groups of 10 people or less and follow social distancing guidelines. Active duty participants receive a Letter of Appreciation (LOA). To participate, contact a Natural Resources Manager at (808) 257-7000 or 257-7129.



For more information about MCBH's Environmental Division, visit us on the web at:  
<https://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/Offices-Staff/S-4-Installations-Environment-Logistics/Environmental/>