

ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN

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

July 2020

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



Various metals are collected and recycled by the MCBH Recycling Center.



Earth Day Every Day



Corals...they aren't just rocks!

by Karen Bryan

Pali Kilo Cove is one of MCBH's most precious gems. It's a glistening shallow reef habitat that was once thriving. As a result of climate change, invasive algae, and recreational use, coral reefs have suffered. Specifically, the coral reef that absorbs wave energy to protect our coastline and provides shelter and food for various marine animals is stressed like many other coral reef habitats in Hawai'i and around the globe.

Corals may appear to be "just rocks," but each limestone structure contains a colony of tiny animals called coral polyps living in harmony with microscopic algae called zooxanthellae ("Zoh-zan-thell-ay"). In exchange for room and board, symbiotic zooxanthellae produce food for the coral polyps through photosynthesis. They also give the corals their colors, ranging from light brown to purple in Hawai'i. If the ocean becomes too warm, the zooxanthellae leave their coral hosts, and the corals appear white or "bleached." If a coral is damaged, you will see its exposed white limestone skeleton.



So...you should avoid the corals, but step on the rocks, right? Not exactly. Coral colonies begin as a single polyp 1 to 3 mm in diameter. To put that into perspective, the diameter of a pencil is 6 mm. Tiny coral polyps settle on rocks and begin to grow at a rate of only 0.3 to 2 cm per year—that's less than the width of the average adult's thumb! If you step on the rocks, you are most certainly stepping on small coral colonies. Here are a few things we can do to help conserve and restore Pali Kilo Cove and other coral reef habitats:

- Stand or walk ONLY in sandy areas to avoid corals of all sizes.
- Canoe, kayak, and SUP at or near high tide where necessary (i.e. Pali Kilo Cove).
- Never drag canoes, kayaks, SUPs, dive flags, or other gear over the reef.
- When spearfishing, do not allow spears to make contact with corals.
- Don't remove live coral, dead coral, or rocks. It's actually against state law.
- Use coral-safe sunscreen—NO oxybenzone, octinoxate, and other harmful chemicals.
- Make it a habit to pack out your trash wherever you go.
- Look, but don't touch the reef or marine life.
- If you must anchor a watercraft, do so only in sandy areas.

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

It is indeed a privilege to have access to all of the beauty and natural resources that MCBH has to offer. As you enjoy nature, please encourage others to respect marine life and their habitat. For more information about natural resources and wildlife at MCBH, visit: <https://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/Offices-Staff/S-4-Installations-Environment-Logistics/Environmental/Natural-Resources/>



PC: Karen W. Bryan

Why should we recycle?

by Karen Bryan

Recycling is vital for many reasons that affect our future. It's one simple way to protect the environment and stimulate our national economy. Need another reason to recycle?

Reason to Recycle #1:

Protect wildlife and natural resources. Before you throw paper in the trash, consider if it's recyclable or not. Of course, paper with PII or FOUO must be shredded, but lots of other paper is suitable for recycling. Recycling helps to preserve trees by reducing the need for new paper, thus preserving natural resources and wildlife. Using recycled white paper creates

75% less air pollution and 35% less water pollution than making new paper. Recycling paper also reduces the amount of garbage in landfills and saves energy compared to manufacturing new paper from raw materials.

Reason to Recycle #2:

Save money! When you finish a bottle of water or a can of soda, remember to recycle it. Selling materials that are recycled offsets the additional costs of processing and collecting the recycled materials. This makes recycling a cheaper option for most American communities.

Photo: Aluminum cans are bagged and prepped for shipping by the MCBH Recycling Center.





Reason to Recycle #3:

Reduce pollution. Recycle or repurpose items such as coffee cans, jars, newspapers, plastic bottles, milk jugs, and boxes. Recycling steel cans from the chow hall helps to avoid additional mining for metals to make cans and drilling for oil to make plastic. Using recycled cans produces 95% less air and 97% less water pollution than making them from raw materials.

See next month's newsletter for more reasons to recycle.

Earth Day Every Day at MCBH.

Announcements & Upcoming ECPD Events

Weed Warriors Wanted!

Come join the Base Environmental staff in removing invasive mangrove trees from endangered wildlife habitat in the Nu'upia Ponds wetlands wildlife management area. Learn about Hawaii's native plants and birds while having fun and getting exercise. You can make a difference!

The event will take place on **Saturday, 25 July, from 0800 - 1130**. The natural resources staff will meet volunteers in the Pacific War memorial parking lot near the H-3 Security Gate NLT 0800 to sign in. Once sign-in is complete, we will proceed to the designated work site.

Be prepared to get wet and muddy during this event!!

Everyone will be required to follow the Base **COVID-19 requirements**: Bring your own mask and wear it if working within 6 ft. of each other. Everyone must use hand sanitizer which will be provided by the Environmental staff before and after the event.

MCBH will provide gloves and tools. Volunteers should bring water and sunscreen. Closed-toed shoes are **REQUIRED**. Minimum age to participate is 16 years old, and parent or guardian must be present. Waivers of liability must be completed by all participants unless they are an active duty service member. You **WILL** get wet and/or muddy!

Letters of Appreciation will be issued to all active duty personnel.

For further information contact the Natural Resources Manager at 257-7000.

Reminders:

- When exercising in the Nu'upia Ponds Wildlife Management Area (WMA), please remain on the trail marked in green on the map found at:
<https://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/Portals/114/WebDocuments/IEL/Environmental/NaturalResources/Nuupia%20Pond%20WMA%20Restricted%20Access%20Map%20-%20Recreational%20Running%20Trail.pdf>
- Remember to have your pets, especially cats, microchipped to ensure they're returned to you should they accidentally escape your home and get trapped in the Wildlife Management Area (WMA).
- Always keep pets on a leash. Pets are **not** allowed on MCBH beaches between 1000 and 1500.

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