

ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN

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

June 2021

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



Naupaka plant. PC: Karen Bryan



Earth Day Every Day



MCBH Protecting our Resources -- “What You Can Do”

Stop Illegal Dumping

Posted: May 02, 2021



Have you seen the results of improper disposal practices of some individuals? Throwing tires, trash, and other debris in our waterways and road is illegal Dumping! Violators will and can be penalized under Federal, State, and local laws. Pictured here are an amazing crew of Marines getting deep in the mud, working hard to keep our waters clean by removing someone else’s mess. Bulk trash dumped on the side of the road smells and pollutes our air and water. Illegal dumping can increase insect and rodent populations, thus putting the community at risk of diseases.

“What You Can Do” – Dispose of bulk trash at one of the many free and convenient Transfer Stations on island

such as the Kapaa Transfer Station (phone# 808-262-2628) on 100 Kapaa Quarry Road, just 10 minutes outside of MCBH in Kailua. If you happen to see illegal dumping occurring, make note of the individual’s identifying features and notify the Provost Marshal’s Office or local law enforcement. If you know the person, respectfully point them in the direction of the legal and appropriate “bulk trash” disposal site. It’s free and convenient. View the City and County’s website www.opala.org for all your bulk disposal questions.

-- Brought to you by MCBH Environmental <https://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/Offices-Staff/S-4-Installations-Logistics/Facilities/Environmental/>

Photo: Joseph Pasco, MCBH Environmental Div; SSgt Jimmy Ortiz (foreground) leads Marines to remove tires and bulk trash from MCBH Mokapu Central Drainage Canal

A Cultural Tour

Posted: May 05, 2021



Cultural Resource Managers from Marine Corps Base Hawaii recently led a bicycle tour which informed participants of the protected cultural sites and historic significance of the MCBH Mokapu Peninsula. Photo: U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Samantha Sanchez

Congratulations to the Winners of the MCBH April 2021 Earth Month Bike Competition!

Posted: May 15, 2021



- 1st Place Winners for April – 8-man team VR-51 (total 661.35 miles). Trophy hand-crafted by Base Environmental from donated re-used materials.
- 2nd Place Winner for April – 1-man team 3rd Marine Reg, MSgt W. Tokiwa (total 607.3 miles)
- 3rd Place Winners for April – 6-man team Base Environmental (total 493.79 miles)



MCBH Protecting Resources “What You Can Do”

Car Washing BMPs

Posted: May 16, 2021



BMPs are referred to as Best Management Practices and are methods of minimizing pollutant runoff. The best option for washing your car is to take it to the Car Wash facility located on base (pictured). This facility is directly connected to the sanitary sewer system where waste water is treated before it's released safely into our environment. Car wash water contains pollutants such as soap, oil, grease, heavy metals, and dirt. Excess phosphates in soapy water can decrease water quality and harm aquatic life if it's released untreated into the waterways.

“What You Can Do” – Wash your car at a designated Car Wash facility. If you decide to wash it on your own, be sure to use biodegradable and phosphate-free cleaner; wash only the exterior of the vehicle; and try to wash it over grass to let the water absorb into the ground rather than go into a nearby storm drain. Remember also to conserve water by using a nozzle so the water doesn't continue to run. Photo: Tessa Schaffer, MCBH Environmental

-- Brought to you by MCBH Environmental. Learn more on www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/Offices-Staff/S-4-Installations-Logistics/Facilities/Environmental/

Endangered Hawaiian monk seals

Posted: May 22, 2021

Irresponsible human behavior or allowing dogs to approach seals can disturb the animals and may result in injury to wildlife, pets, and people. Hawaiian monk seals are protected under the endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Actions that may harass, harm, pursue, capture, injure, or kill the animals may be punishable through fines or jail time.

On May 11, 2021, a person walking their dog on Ft Hase shoreline approached a monk seal on the beach causing the monk seal to flee to the ocean. This particular monk seal may be pregnant and the stress caused by this person and their dog could be life threatening to the unborn pup the monk seal is carrying. Monk seals require periods of rest out of the ocean; failure to get this rest can negatively affect the monk seal's health.

MCBHO 5233.3 Pet and Wildlife requires pets be leashed at all times on Marine Corps Base Hawaii. This is especially important when wild animals are present. Pet's off-leash or getting too close can cause unfriendly interactions with seals or their young. Adult seals are large, strong predators that can exhibit aggressive behaviors if provoked. When marine mammals are present on the beach, maintain a safe distance such that you do not harass or startle the animal. Always keep pets away from marine mammals, for their safety and yours. The following images are prohibited actions around monk seals.



Human or pet activity might also result in:

- Separation of mothers and their young.
- Disruption of sea turtle resting activities.
- Interference in breeding and/or reproductive and rearing activities.

When viewing Hawaiian monk seals or other marine life on the beach:

- Stay behind all signs or barriers.
- Stay at least 50 feet away - use binoculars or your camera's zoom for a close up. Taking "selfies" with seals from close distances is illegal.
- Limit viewing time to a few minutes.
- Do not disturb sea turtles or their nests, or monk seals sleeping on the beach.
- Never touch, chase, feed, or swim with the animals. Animals are wild, unpredictable, and protected by law.

If you witness a potential marine animal harassment or harm:

On MCBH: Call Military Police at 1-808-257-2123, Conservation Law Enforcement at (808) 257-7135, or the Natural Resources staff at (808) 257-7000 / 7131.

Off-base: Call NOAA Office of Law Enforcement at 1-800-853-1964. Email photos or videos to RespectWildlife@noaa.gov. To report general marine animal emergencies, call NOAA's statewide reporting number at 1-888-256-9840. <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/insight/viewing-marine-life>

Announcements & Upcoming ECPD Events

June 2021: MCBH Local Environmental Compliance Course: June 16-17, 2021

July 2021: MCBH Local Environmental Compliance Course: July 14-15, 2021

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