

ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN

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

November 2020

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



Naupaka plant. PC: Karen Bryan



Earth Day Every Day



Pyramid Rock: It's not just a beach. It's a culturally significant area.

Pyramid Rock, or Kū'au in the Hawaiian language, is a well-recognized site on the northwestern point of the Mōkapu Peninsula, home of MCBH Kaneohe Bay. Pyramid Rock Beach is part of the Mōkapu Burial Area, significant to native Hawaiian Culture and monitored by the Environmental Compliance & Protection Division. Kū'au translates to "handle," and legends of old Hawaii tell us this was the "handle" that held Mōkapu in place. Federal and State laws make it a crime to disturb native burial and cultural sites, so avoid digging or removing sand or stones from Kū'au and other areas. Mahalo for being stewards of MCBH's natural and cultural resources.



PC: Karen Bryan

Mahalo "Thank You" to Volunteers

Hawaiian Green Turtle, or honu (in Hawaiian) nesting season spans from April to November each year. The honu is a federally protected species listed as Threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973. This year 2020, Oahu experienced an unprecedented number of green turtle nests ever recorded on all its beaches! On Marine Corps Base Hawaii beaches alone, 17 nests were discovered (in contrast to 7 last year). Once discovered, MCBH personnel



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immediately employed best management practices to protect the nests such as cordoned off areas to reduce people and pets from disturbing it, installed light barriers shielding hatchlings from the surrounding bright lights that confuse their journey to the ocean, and monitored the nests day and night. Numerous volunteers and agencies from the community both on and off base supported this effort. MCBH Environmental Natural Resources Managers and Conservation Law Enforcement Officers worked tirelessly with volunteers, US Fish & Wildlife Service, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, and Hawaii Marine Animal Response.

A special thanks goes out to Malama Na Honu and their volunteers for their unwavering dedication. They played a critical role as they walked MCBH beaches late at night, early in the morning, and during the heat of the day to identify and report nesting conditions. This unified community partnership ensured a successful honu nesting season which resulted in approximately 375 hatchlings! Well done everyone!

Recycled Superheroes!

Thinking of ideas for this month's Costume Contest or other Halloween festivities? Instead of buying a costume, get creative and make one from recyclable or reusable items already in your home. Items such as cardboard, paper, plastics, or wood to create unique one-of-a-kind costumes like these girls in carryout boxes!

When asked what she used to make this costume, Sarah Failla replied "I used recycled amazon boxes, socks I was planning to toss, pants I was going to donate to salvation army, stuffed with cotton that I collected from old stuffed animals and pillows (I have a whole bag at my house), and some garden gloves that I could reuse later. I did have two masks lying around my house from previous Halloween expenditures, although I'm sure I could have found something else lying (around) had I not had them."

Be a hero in your neighborhood -- a Recycled Superhero and invite friends and family to do the same! Reusing recyclables protects our environment and landfills from discarded waste. Caring for our environment can be fun too. Happy Halloween!

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



PC: Sarah Failla

Protecting Wildlife Habitat Nu`upia Ponds



U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Timothy Pochop, director, Environmental Compliance and Protection Division, and Erik Franklin, assistant research professor, Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology, discuss the future of the Nu'upia Ponds, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Oct. 19, 2020. The visit between base environmental specialists and local Hawaiian subject matter experts aimed to ensure that protected species and habitats aboard MCBH continue to receive the best care possible. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Shane Linder)

Wedge-Tail Shearwater Seabirds Study

U.S. Marine Corps Col. Speros Koumparakis, commanding officer, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, pulls a Wedge-Tail Shearwater bird out of its burrow during a conservation study, MCBH, Oct. 24, 2020. MCBH partners with state, federal, and non-profit organization volunteers to count Wedge-Tail Shearwater chicks, adults and active burrows. The Wedge-Tail Shearwater is a migratory seabird that nests on the installation's federally protected land. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Matthew Kirk)



Announcements & Upcoming ECPD Events

MOKAPU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS PUBLIC NOTICES

Posted on website: <https://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/Resources/Featured-Information/Mokapu-ES/>

1. Notice of availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and anticipated Finding of No Significant Impact (AFONSI) for the proposed Mokapu Elementary School (ES) campus improvements at Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) Kaneohe Bay. The Draft EA is posted on MCBH website and at the following website: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/Doc_Library/2020-11-08-OA-DEA-Mokapu-Elementary-School-Campus-Improvements.pdf. Printed copies are available at the Hawaii Documents Center and Kailua Public Library. Written comments on the Draft EA may be provided by mail to: HHF Planners, ATTN: Gail Renard, 733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590, Honolulu, HI 96813, or by email: comments@hhf.com. Comments must be received or postmarked by December 8, 2020 to be considered in the Final EA or floodplain evaluation and decision process.
2. Section 106 Public Notice is posted on MCBH website and provided to Mōkapu Elementary School Parent Teacher Association and Mōkapu Elementary School Community Council. MCBH and DOE are proposing to conduct Mokapu Elementary School Campus Improvements located at a 14.2 acre site on Mokapu Road in the District of Ko`olaupoko, Ahupua`a of Kaneohe, on the Island of O`ahu, TMK 1-4-4-009:007. The proposed project is currently undergoing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). All questions, comments, and correspondence should be directed to Dr. Wendy Wichman, MCBH Cultural Resources Management, via email at wendy.wichman@usmc.mil no later than 8 December 2020.

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