

ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN

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

September 2020

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



Hawaiian green sea turtles often bask in the sun on the beaches of Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) and Marine Corps Training Area Bellows (MCTAB). This year was an unprecedented year for green sea turtle nesting on our beaches as well.



Earth Day Every Day



Nu'upia Ponds: An Ancient Fishpond Complex

The Nu'upia Ponds are part of the Mōkapu Peninsula Fishpond Complex at MCBH. Long ago, the fishponds were made by building walled sections on the reef area. Many shrimp and fish such as mullet and milk fish were once raised in the ponds. When Hawaiians used the ponds, they practiced ho'ihi (respect), laulima (cooperation), and mālama

(stewardship; caring for). This resulted in a lōkāhi (balance). Today, the Nu'upia Ponds are a 482-acre Wildlife Management Area where the Natural Resource Managers and volunteer environmental stewards collectively known as the "Weed Warriors" work together to control invasive species so native flora and fauna can thrive.

Contact the Natural Resources staff to participate in a Weed Warriors event at: (808) 257-7000 or 257-7129. Active duty participants receive an official Letter of Appreciation (LOA).



Pu'u Hawai'i Loa: Commonly Known as KT Hill

This photo depicts the view from *Pu'u Hawai'i Loa* towards the eastern end of Mokapu Peninsula, home of MCBH. In the Hawaiian language, *pu'u* means "hill". *Hawai'i loa* was a type of fishing line used to catch *ulua* (giant trevally fish). Based on traditional Hawaiian fishing practices, *Pu'u Hawai'i Loa* may have been a landmark used for identifying important fishing grounds by line-of-sight with other landmarks. Over the last 20 years,

archaeological studies identified Hawaiian cultural resources on *Pu'u Hawai'i Loa*. These resources include stone terraces, cupboards, walls, stone-lined planting pits, and Paper Mulberry trees or *wauke*, which were traditionally used for making *kapa* (bark cloth material). Today, *Pu'u Hawai'i Loa* is more commonly known as "KT Hill" for the aviation control tower built on its crest called Kansas Tower.

More cultural and historical information can be found at:

https://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/Portals/114/WebDocuments/IEL/Environmental/MCBH_ethno_LoRes2.pdf

Announcements and Upcoming Events

All events have been cancelled for the foreseeable future due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Reminder: Register and Leash Your Pets

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).



A federally protected, endangered Hawaiian Gallinule is one of several ground-nesting birds that are threatened by free-roaming cats.

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.

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/>