

ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN

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

March 2021

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



Naupaka plant. PC: Karen Bryan



Earth Day Every Day



Sticks in the Mud

Posted: February 01 & 13, 2021



U.S. Marines with Combat Assault Company (CAC), 3d Marine Regiment, clear vegetation with an Amphibious Assault Vehicle from the Nu'Upia Ponds Wildlife Management Area during the 36th annual 'Mud Ops'.

Mud Ops: sustaining wildlife, training the force
The relationship between CAC, 3d Marine Regiment, and the MCBH ECPD is essential for not only the training, but the continued prosperity of the island's water birds. Interview ECPD Bio Science Tech, Dain Christensen. (U.S. Marine Corps video by Cpl. Nicholas Juarez).

Weed Warrior Service Project

Posted: February 10, 2021

WANTED!

DEAD OR ALIVE



Pluchea



Kiawe



Christmas Berry



Mangrove



Silver Buttonwood

INVASIVE SPECIES

Come join Base Environmental in removing invasive species from habitats of native wildlife!

- Letter of Appreciation issued for all active duty!
- Learn about the native ecosystem & traditional Hawaiian culture
- Become an official Weed Warrior!

2021 Dates:

February 13th
April 10th,
June 12th
August 14th
October 9th
December 11th



Contact Base Environmental for more information at 257-7000 or 257-7131

Naupaka: Legend of Lovers

Posted: February 14, 2021



You may have seen this unique white half-flower growing wild along our sandy beaches at MCB Hawaii Kaneohe Bay. The naupaka plant is indigenous to Hawaii. Early Hawaiians tell a story explaining why the plant has petals only on its bottom half. It's a love story... Princess Naupaka fell in love with a man named Kauai, a commoner not of noble birth. It was strictly forbidden for Hawaiian royalty to marry commoners. Distressed, they climbed a mountain seeking counsel from a kahuna (elder) who told them to pray. As they prayed, rain began to fall. Torn by sorrow, Naupaka and Kauai embraced for a final time. Princess Naupaka took a flower from behind her ear and tore it in half, giving one half to Kauai. "The gods won't allow us to be together. You go live down by the water and I'll stay here in the mountains." The very next day after the two lovers separated, the naupaka plant began to bloom in only half flowers. The naupaka along our waters can grow up to 10 feet tall and 6-15 feet wide. Its purple-streaked white flowers have petals only on its lower half. An identical plant grows in the mountains and its

petals grow only on its upper half. Learn more about our natural resources on www.mcbh.usmc.mil/g4/enviro/natural/Index.htm. Reference story: www.aloha-hawaii.com. Photo: Naupaka Flower www.instanthawaii.com

Protecting Yourself and Your Home From Mosquitoes

Posted: February 14, 2021



Navy Entomology Center of Excellence



Protecting Yourself and Your Home From Mosquitoes

Depending on where you live and the time of year, mosquitoes may present a major nuisance problem, restricting outdoor activities. Additionally, they are also capable of transmitting diseases to humans including West Nile Virus (WNV). There are several easy steps you can take to protect yourself and home from mosquitoes:

How can I protect myself and my family from mosquitoes?

- Avoid outdoor activities during peak mosquito activity (dawn and dusk).
- Apply repellent to exposed skin. **Look for products containing 20-35% DEET or 20% picaridin.**
- Treat clothing with repellent. Look for products containing permethrin.
- Wear long-sleeved, light colored shirts and pants.
- Place mosquito netting over infant carriers.



How do I "mosquito-proof" my home/yard?

- Ensure window/door screening is in good repair.
- Eliminate standing water (artificial containers, pet dishes, children's toys).
- Maintain your landscape through consistent mowing and trimming.
- Aerate artificial ponds and apply larvicide. Look for products "dunks" containing *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (BTI), a natural product that specifically kills mosquito larvae.
- Avoid using electric "bug zappers" or other similar mosquito attraction devices.
- Contact your local mosquito control district to schedule an area review or to report issues concerning mosquitoes.



For more information, contact your [cognizant NEPMU](#) or the [Navy Entomology Center of Excellence](#) (904-542-2424), or reach out to your preventive medicine authority.

Connect with us: [f](#) [t](#) [p](#) [v](#) @NMCPHC

Thar She Blows!

Posted: February 21, 2021

It's started...whales have been spotted off our shoreline here at MCB Hawaii Kaneohe Bay! From now through May humpback whales come to our warm Hawaiian waters to breed and give birth to new calves. Whale watching vessels are prohibited in our 500 yard marine buffer zone so take a pair of binoculars and spend some time on our beaches facing the Pacific Ocean. Good viewing spots are North Beach and Pyramid Rock Beach.

While we don't know exactly when they'll surface, be patient and you might see one breaching or a burst of mist as the whale breaks the surface to breathe! When breaching, these giants generate enough upward force with their powerful flukes to lift approximately two-thirds of their body out of the water. Researchers believe breaching is part of the whale's courtship or play activity. Whales also do fluke slaps, flipper slaps, and headslaps in the water. Adult whales range from 40-50 feet long and weigh about 25-40 tons with flippers as long as 1/3 of their body length! Every year they travel 6,000 miles round-trip from Alaska to Hawaii and back. It's one of the longest migration distances of any animal species.

Listed as an endangered species, we're fortunate that a few of them have come to play in our waters this year. For more information go to <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/>



Announcements & Upcoming ECPD Events

MCBH Local Environmental Compliance Course: 10-11 March & 17-18 March 2021

MCBH Announces Earth Day/Month April 2021 Events: 30 March 2021

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