

# YARD WASTE



## Be an Everyday Clean Water Hero!

Be **AWARE**, take **ACTION**, report **ACTIVITIES** that adversely affect streams, drainage channels and the ocean.

### BE AWARE:

Nutrients, like nitrogen and phosphorus, occur naturally in water, soil and air. Just as the nitrogen and phosphorus in fertilizer aids the growth of agricultural crops, both nutrients are vital to the growth of plants within streams. When it rains, large amounts of leaves, fruits and branches can runoff into storm drains, clogging drainage channels and causing algal blooms (overgrowth of aquatic plants that smother other aquatic life). These blooms block sunlight needed by underwater plants that provide habitat, and the algae's decay robs the water of dissolved oxygen needed by aquatic life.

### TAKE ACTION:

- Contain yard waste and place it at the curb for recycling collection. Prevent blowing or hosing of grass clippings, leaves, flowers, fruits, tree cuttings and other yard waste into the storm drain. Prevent dumping of yard waste in drainage channels.
- Use fallen leaves for mulching.
- Compost your biodegradable wastes.
- Grasscycle! Leave grass clippings in lawn after mowing. The nitrogen from the clippings acts as a natural fertilizer.
- Minimize impermeable paving to reduce yard runoff. Consider using open pavers, grass paving, or other permeable paving that lets the rain soak into the soil.
- Download a copy of the Backyard Conservation Booklet at [www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com/storm/hero/good\\_neighbor.html](http://www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com/storm/hero/good_neighbor.html)

### REPORT ACTIVITIES:

City's Environmental Concern Line at **768-3300** or visit [www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com](http://www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com)

Reference: Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, City and County of Honolulu Storm Water Quality Branch, <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/nutrient/policy.html>, [http://envhonolulu.org/solid\\_waste/](http://envhonolulu.org/solid_waste/)

