



Pollution Solutions FACT SHEET 9

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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Oahu is home to nearly one million residents who have a direct effect on our island environment and water quality.

WHAT IS POLLUTED RUNOFF?

When it rains, water flows over streets and yards carrying the pollutants it picks up into storm drains.

Private storm drain connections to the city-owned separate storm sewer system discharge pollutants, such as automobile fluids, sediment, and leaves into state waters directly or by conveyance through a drainage facility. This can create a water pollution problem. It could also be a nuisance or hazard.

Storm drains are not connected to wastewater treatment plants. So, what's in the streets flow directly into our streams and ocean. With more than 20,000 storm drain inlets, and over 670 miles of storm drains to clean and maintain, we need your help.

PRIVATE STORM DRAIN CONNECTION

The Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, Section 14-12.2, defines a private storm drain connection as, "any conveyance of storm water, including but not limited to any drainage pipe, ditch, or swale connected to any drainage facility or separate storm system, including any curb or gutter."

All connections from nonmunicipal and private drainage systems to the city-owned separate storm sewer system require a storm drain connection license. The license is issued to the property owner by the City and County of Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting.

ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS



Each pipe is a man-made conveyance that connects non-storm water discharges directly to the city-owned separate storm sewer system or MS4. Illegal connections can be located either above or below the ground and may include drains, pipes or ditches.

The City and County of Honolulu responds to the discovery of an illegal connection to the city-owned separate storm sewer system with enforcement and education.

Often, property owners are not aware of the existence of illegal connections between their buildings and the storm drain system.

"Property owner" means the fee simple owner of record, lessee of record, administrator, administratrix, executor, executrix, personal representative, receiver, trustee, property management agent, or any other individual, corporation, or unincorporated association who has the use, control or occupation of land with claim of ownership, whether the owner's interest be in absolute fee or a lesser estate.

Some connections may exist by mistake or as part of the design in an antiquated system.

The involvement of City, State and/or Federal agencies with enforcement authority may be necessary if the source of an illegal connection involves multiple jurisdictions.

These connections should be inspected to determine the need for the property owner to not only obtain a private storm drain connection license; but also, maintain and keep it in good repair.

Environmental Concern Line 768-3300
Help protect our waters ... for life!

Discharging pollutants to the storm drain system is against the law. Violations can result in fines of up to \$25,000 per violation, per day.

Know the law to avoid fines. The Clean Water Act gave the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the authority to implement water pollution control programs. In an effort to comply with the EPA's mandate, the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, Section 14-12.23(a) Environmental Quality Control - Violation states, "It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or cause to be discharged any pollutant into any drainage facility which causes a pollution problem in state waters, or causes a violation of any provision of the city NPDES permit or the water quality standards of the State of Hawaii."

Be A Part Of The Solution

The City and County of Honolulu has a number of education and public outreach programs that focus on community involvement and targeted enforcement to eliminate or reduce illegal discharge practices.

Existing projects such as the storm drain stenciling, Adopt-A-Stream Workshops, World Water Monitoring Day, and Adopt-A-Block cleanup and monitoring programs, provide opportunities to train a committed neighborhood.

Report It, Who to Call

As a resident, you can make a difference, both on the job and in your community. When you're at home, share your knowledge with neighbors and family. As you drive to work, report any illegal discharge or dumping.

Spill Response (Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response)

- Local (HFD): 911

- State: 586-4249 (business hours), 247-2191 (after hours)

Report illegal discharge that has already occurred: 768-3300

NPDES permitting questions: 768-3242

Polluted runoff public outreach: 768-3248 (City), 586-4309 (State)

For a Private Storm Drain Connection License Application, go to www.honolulu.gov.

Examples of illegal connections



Illegal pipe connection that is below the ground.



All connections from private drainage systems to the gutter and street, part of the City-owned separate storm sewer system or MS4, require a storm drain connection license.

Curb drains typically convey runoff directly to the City's street drainage system without the benefit of absorption by permeable surfaces and natural treatments such as landscaped areas and planters.



Parking lot designed with these man-made conveyances that connect non-storm water discharges directly to a City drainage channel require a storm drain connection license.