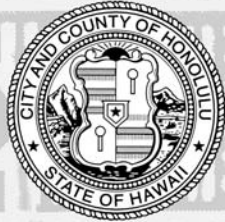


NEWS RELEASE



CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 24, 2007

Pouhala Marsh Picked for School Field Day and Community Cleanup

Two major events are on tap for September and October, involving a diverse cadre of students and volunteers from Waipahu High School, Moanalua High School, the Waipahu Community Association, Kickstart Karate, U.S. Navy, Department of Defense (DoD), U.S. Air Force, local churches, and others.

September 25: Wetland Field Day

One hundred and twenty 10th graders from Waipahu High School will participate in the 3rd Annual Wetland Field Day at Pouhala Marsh on Tuesday, September 25, and Thursday, September 27: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The 70-acre marsh is on Waipahu Depot Road, across from the City's Honolulu Police Recruit Academy and Waipahu Convenience Center.

Students will rotate through four hands-on stations on water sampling, native plant and bird identification, and soil education. The event will be hosted by the City and County of Honolulu Storm Water Quality Branch, Ducks Unlimited, State Department of Land and Natural Resources, Natural Resources Conservation Service/Oahu Research Conservation and Development, Bishop Museum, and Ron Walker, an everyday environmental hero.

Mayor Mufi Hannemann said, "Too often, people, especially our youth, are seen as the recipients of service. Instead, they should see themselves and be seen as leaders and role models who can make powerful contributions to their communities. By starting early and unleashing the energy and idealism of young people, we can create a generation with a strong watershed stewardship ethic. Making sure our day-to-day activities do not cause water pollution is a simple way everyone can help. The key to water pollution prevention is making the connection between our behavior and the health of the environment."

Pouhala Marsh consists of a remnant fishpond and coastal marsh located in the western loch of Pearl Harbor. Over the years, the wetlands of this area have been severely and significantly degraded through filling, urban development, water pollution, and alien plant invasion. What was once an extensive system of wetlands in this area has declined to a few remaining basins and mud flats. Pouhala Marsh is the largest remaining intact wetland habitat in Pearl Harbor according to Christina McGuire of Ducks Unlimited.

Ongoing efforts to preserve the marsh are being spearheaded through a community development project organized by Ducks Unlimited, Department of Land and Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the City and County of Honolulu. The project's goal is to restore the habitat for native Hawaiian water birds and migratory shore birds, and develop a natural resources management education and internship program. The Hawaii Nature Center coordinates wetland field trips for third-graders and a restoration project.

October 27: Make A Difference Day Cleanup

On Saturday, October 27, in observance of Make A Difference Month, 150 volunteers organized by the City's Department of Environmental Services' Storm Water Quality Branch, Ducks Unlimited, and Hawaii Nature Center will converge on Pouhala Marsh to plant 100 trees, trim Kiawe trees, clear debris from the banks of Kapakahi Stream, and remove pickleweed and mangrove seedlings from the banks of Kapakahi Stream and the marsh.

Cooperating agencies include the City's Department of Facility Maintenance, Department of Environmental Services' Division of Refuse, State Department of Land and Natural Resources, State Department of Transportation, Kraft Foods, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Navy Region Hawaii, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marines and U.S. Coast Guard.

For more information about the City's Clean Water Program and a calendar of work projects go to www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com or call the City's Environmental Concern Line at 768-3300 or the Hawaii Nature Center at 955-0100 ext. 18.

-30-

CONTACT:

Iwalani Sato, Storm Water Public Education and Outreach Coordinator, 780-8872.