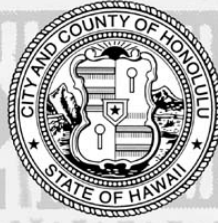


NEWS RELEASE



**DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 18, 2006

AIEA HIGH SCHOOL EIGHTH-GRADERS TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE AIEA WATERSHED

The City and County of Honolulu's Storm Water Branch will host an educational field day for more than a hundred eighth-grade students and teachers from Aiea Middle School on Wednesday, September 20, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The field day in the Aiea watershed is a hands-on, real-world experience featuring:

1. data collection to measure water quality parameters for nitrate, phosphate, temperature, pH, chlorine, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity in the lower watershed and
2. identification of invasive plant and pest threats in the upper watershed, in partnership with the Oahu Invasive Species Committee.

Matt Zitello, an eighth-grade science teacher at Aiea, said, "This is the second year of Aiea Intermediate's watershed project and partnership with the City's Storm Water Quality Branch. Our goal is to foster an awareness of watershed issues, ecosystem management, and stewardship for the Aiea watershed and adjacent areas. The field day will provide a 'real world' perspective to support topics covered in our classroom."

Field Day Schedule

| Time | Activity |
|-------------|---|
| 8:15-9:45 | Station 1: Upper watershed with Oahu Invasive Species Committee. Meet at first parking lot and start at Aiea Loop Trail. Contact Matt Zitello, 391-2929. |
| | Station 2: Lower watershed with Storm Water Quality Branch. Meet in parking lot of Aiea Bay State Recreation Area off Kamehameha Highway near McGrew Point. Contact Iwalani Sato, 429-4112. |
| 9:45-10:10 | Group rotation |
| 10:10-11:10 | Station work |
| 11:10-11:30 | Group rotation |
| 11:30-12:00 | All meet for lunch at Aiea Bay State Recreation Area |
| 12:00-12:15 | Return to campus |

Background

Iwalani Sato of the Storm Water Branch said, “This educational program is an outgrowth of an effort that began last school year, when the Storm Water Quality Branch provided technical expertise for a summer water sampling workshop co-sponsored by the Hawaii Department of Health and Army Corps of Engineers. Aiea teachers Matt Zitello, Trisha Wakumoto, and Melodie Patton and others subsequently integrated eighth-grade standards for science, social studies, and English into the program, then introduced the watershed project to their students this semester.”

During this school year, teachers and students will focus on their storm water project by taking water quality samples, identifying sources of pollution, and suggesting remedies to mitigate pollution.

Invitation to Join

Teachers and students registered in the City’s Adopt-A-Block program can participate in the Aiea watershed project or other projects sponsored by the Storm Water Branch. Participation requires a two-year commitment with a minimum of four cleanups a year in October, December, January, and April. Students will also participate in the Earth Month Teen Video and Photography Contest. Schools interested in any of these programs can register at www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com.

The Adopt-A-Block, Adopt-A-Stream, Storm Drain Stenciling and the Earth Month Teen Video and Photography contest are coordinated by the City’s Storm Water Quality Branch, in collaboration with *The Honolulu Advertiser*, KHON, and KHUI.

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Contact:

Iwalani Sato, 429-4112