

WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION AT LANIKAI ELEMENTARY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

Each year, Lanikai Elementary School is required by federal law 1) to notify staff and parents about the efforts the school makes to prevent pollution in storm water waste and 2) to remind parents and staff about steps they can take to prevent pollution in our canals and in Kailua Bay.

The majority of the federal reporting is concerned with a school's attention to storm drains located on its campus. There is no storm drain located on the Lanikai campus, but because a shallow concrete swale is located along the makai border of the campus between Alala Road and the edge of the Mid Pacific golf course, we are still required to report on our completion of certain storm-water activities, and one requirement is distribution of a campus-specific fact sheet. This is it.

Over the past few years, our relatively flat campus has usually been dry with just enough showers to keep the grass green. The biggest rainstorm threat is usually the mud that tracks into library and classrooms on the children's feet. When it does rain quite hard for a long period, most rainwater is absorbed into the ground, but we have experienced water several inches deep along the sidewalk between Building A and the library. Any water that does flow into the swale is routed to a low settling pond area beyond the fence at the corner of the golf club grounds.

In an exceptionally heavy and prolonged rain, some of that water might travel along a depression at the end of the golf course and into the Kaelepulu Canal. To avoid the possibility of contributing to canal pollution, Mary and Jeff, our custodians, clean the swale at least once each month and collect leaves and debris from the ground beneath the trees behind the playground structures. They also dispose of other undesirable pollutants such as car wash detergents, petroleum products, or construction debris, and they see that a grease trap located behind the cafeteria is cleaned by a commercial vendor every three months. In addition to their good work, managing and preventing water pollution is a part of the curriculum at several grade levels in our classrooms.

WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP PROTECT HAWAII'S OCEAN

The following suggestions are aimed at changing the way we think about and use water in our homes and on our campuses every day. They have been prepared by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Individual Permit Coverage, Discharges of Storm Water and Certain Non-storm Water from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4).

Use water wisely. By conserving water, the amount of wastewater needing treatment and disposal will be reduced. Overwatering and runoff can carry pollutants into the storm drain system.

Use and dispose of hazardous substances properly. Always read the product label and choose the least toxic alternative. Motor oil, paints, solvents and other chemicals should not be poured on the ground or down the storm drains, because they can pollute our bay and ocean. Motor oil is recycled at oil change locations; other chemical products should be first used up by buying only the amount needed; typically unused excess could be evaporated or soaked into clay litter, wrapped in plastic and disposed with trash. Excess pesticides require special handling and must be disposed as hazardous waste.

Use fertilizer and pesticides sparingly. Choose the least toxic alternative such as compost for fertilizer, repellent/resistant plants and instead of bug sprays, use baited traps. Follow label instructions and use only the amount needed. Apply outdoors only during dry weather.

Landscape the land to prevent erosion and improve inspections. Cover bare ground with grass, shrubs or trees to hold soil in place. Establish native plantings and provide vegetation buffer zones along storm drains and streams. A slow drip or leak can easily waste more than 100 gallons of water a week,

SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Study storm water management. Teachers can address hazards associated with illicit discharges to our storm drains and streams. Develop steps that can be taken to reduce storm water pollution.

Learn about good housekeeping. Good housekeeping practices are simply maintaining a safe, orderly and clean learning environment. Conduct an individual or class project to reinforce pollution prevention activities consistent with protecting storm water.

Learn where your wastewater goes. Investigate the wastewater drainage process from campus to the ocean via streams, storm and sewer drains.

Educate others. Conduct an individual or class project to inform others about protecting our ocean from pollution.

Participate in annual campus cleanup event. Participate in a campus cleanup day to collect litter and address any other issues that would impact storm water quality, such as storage of materials and soil erosion areas

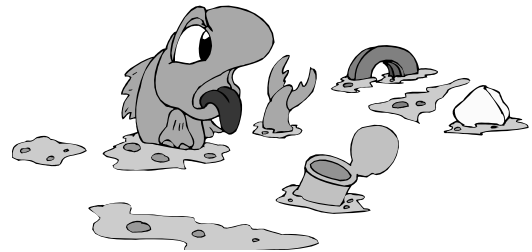


REPORT ANY ILLEGAL DISCHARGE

As a member of the Lanikai School community, we can make a difference when we report any illegal discharge in the Kailua area.

For Immediate Spill Response: 911 (24/7)

To report illegal discharge that has already occurred, call 768-3300 x2 (City Environmental Concern Line)



Share pollution prevention behaviors and practices with your family, friends and neighbors

