

# PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS



## Be an Everyday Clean Water Hero!

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

### BE AWARE:

Fertilizers contain nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous that can wash into streams, and may cause algae blooms (overgrowth of aquatic plants that smother other aquatic life). These blooms use up the oxygen in the water that fish and other organisms need to breathe. Pesticides (substances that kill bugs and animals) and herbicides (substances that kill weeds and plants) also contain toxic substances that are harmful to humans and aquatic life.

### TAKE ACTION:

- Read and follow the label. The label is the law.
- Never apply fertilizers or pesticides if rain is expected within 24 hours.
- Use fertilizer and pesticides sparingly. They can wash off your lawn, driveways and sidewalks into the storm drains and pollute waterways.
- Grasscycle! Leave grass clippings on the lawn after mowing; the nitrogen from the clippings acts as a natural fertilizer. Use organic fertilizers such as manure, mulch or compost in place of chemical fertilizers. Organic fertilizers increase the capacity of the soil to retain water and reduce runoff.
- Landscape with plants that require less water and fewer pesticides.
- Use a soaker hose or drip irrigation where excess water would flow to the sidewalk or street; runoff from these areas flows to the gutter and to storm drains.

### 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://envhonolulu.org/solid\\_waste/](http://envhonolulu.org/solid_waste/), <http://epa.gov/nps/toolbox/>  
Photo shot on location at City Mill

