

Oahu is home to nearly one million residents. The City and County of Honolulu works in partnership with various industries, organizations and residents in an ongoing effort to protect our fragile aquatic environment; one our most precious commodities. By setting standards to reduce pollution, we all become key parts in keeping Oahu an attractive place to live and visit.

### WHAT IS STORM WATER?

Stormwater runoff is generated from rain events that flow over land or impervious surfaces, such as paved streets, parking lots, and building rooftops.

- ◆ Stormwater that soaks in on a property is a resource, helping replenish our ground water.
- ◆ Runoff should stay as clean as possible before making its way to the nearest storm drain.
- ◆ Unlike the sanitary sewer system, anything entering the storm drain system eventually drains into streams and surrounding coastlines, usually without any treatment to remove pollutants.

### WHAT ARE POLLUTANTS?

Storm water pollutants are any man-made or natural substance other than water. The most common and harmful are wastes of man-made materials and manufacturing and soil sediment.



## See It, Report It

As a resident, you can make a difference, both on the job and in your community.




Share your knowledge about storm water pollution and BMPs with co-workers, neighbors and family.

### Report illegal discharges:

- ◆ Environmental Concern Line: (808) 768-3300  
Honolulu 311 Phone App
- ◆ Spill Response (Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response)
  - Local (HFD): 911 (24/7)
  - State (HSERC): (808) 586-4249 (business hours), (808) 247-2191 (after hours)

### Additional resources:

- ◆ Storm drain connection license: (808) 768-8106
- ◆ Applications/Forms: <https://bit.ly/dpp-permits>
- ◆ Clean stream hotline: (potential flood problem) (808) 768-7890
- ◆ Residential code enforcement (complaint investigations related to zoning and housing code for one and two family dwellings, sidewalk maintenance, vacant lot overgrowth, animal structures and setbacks): (808) 768-8280
- ◆ For questions or concerns regarding NPDES permitting, storm water illegal discharges, storm water monitoring and management: (808) 768-3268.

 Clean Water Honolulu  @cleanwater\_hnl  
 @cleanwaterhonolulu

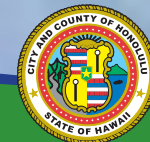
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
VISIT THE WEBSITE

[www.CLEANWATERHONOLULU.com](http://www.CLEANWATERHONOLULU.com)



# STORM WATER QUALITY

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM)

Storm Water Quality Division

[www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com](http://www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com)

(808) 768-3300

## What Are BMPs?

“Best management practices” or “BMPs” means pollution control measures, applied to nonpoint sources, on-site or off -site, to control erosion and the transport of sediments and other pollutants which have an adverse impact on waters of the state. BMPs may include a schedule of activities, the prohibition of practices, maintenance procedures, treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control site runoff, spillage or leaks, or drainage from raw material storage.

## Be A Part Of The Solution

Most industrial facilities have employee training programs. Usually these address such areas as health and safety training and fire protection. Training on storm water management and BMPs can be incorporated into these programs. Employees can be taught through:

- 1) Postings, employee meetings, and courses about storm water management, potential contaminant sources, and prevention of contamination in surface water runoff.
- 2) Field training programs that show areas of potential storm water contamination and associated pollutants, followed by a discussion of site-specific BMPs by trained personnel.

The City and County of Honolulu, has a number of public education programs that focus on community involvement and targeted enforcement to eliminate or reduce illegal discharge practices. For more information about these programs, visit our website.



## Background Information

The Clean Water Act was established in 1972 with the goal to make US waters clean enough to be swimmable and fishable. To do this, the Environmental Protection Agency established the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program.

Since the City’s Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), or drainage system, discharges directly to streams and the ocean, the City is required to obtain an NPDES permit from the State Department of Health. This permit requires the City to reduce the amount of pollutants discharged from the City’s MS4 in order to meet the water quality standards of the State of Hawaii to the maximum extent practicable.

The City’s MS4 is the system for the conveyance of storm water, and includes roads and streets with drainage systems, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, and storm drains owned by the City.

Components of the City’s permit include investigating complaints of pollutant discharges, pursuing enforcement action against dischargers, and requiring licenses for all private storm drain connections to the City’s MS4.

With more than 20,000 storm drain inlets, and over 670 miles of storm drains to clean and maintain, we need your help.

## What is the law saying?

The City’s MS4 was designed to convey storm water, not debris or pollutants. It is unlawful to discharge pollutants into the City’s storm drainage system.

Homeowners are responsible for all conditions on their property that may cause pollution. This includes poorly vegetated areas that release sediment into the drainage system. As well as other home maintenance practices that allow anything but water to enter the storm drain.

**Laws and Ordinances.** *Know the law to avoid fines.*

In order to comply with NPDES mandates, the following sections of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu addresses pollutant discharge into the City’s MS4:

### Section 14-12.23 Environmental Quality Control

(a) 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.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or cause to be discharged any storm water runoff associated with industrial activity into any drainage facility which causes a violation of any provision of the city NPDES permit.

(c) It shall be unlawful to discharge domestic wastewater and industrial wastewater into any drainage facility or any separate storm sewer system. It also shall be unlawful to discharge commercial cooking oil waste and commercial FOG waste, as defined under Section 14-5A.1, into any drainage facility or any separate storm sewer system.

(d) It shall be unlawful to discharge any storm water on any public right-of-way which creates a drainage problem or causes a nuisance.

### Sec. 14-12.12 Connection to city-owned separate storm sewer system

(a) (1) All connections from non-municipal and private drainage systems to the city-owned separate storm sewer system shall require a storm drain connection license issued by the chief engineer.

### Sec. 14-22 Discharge of effluent other than storm water runoff

(a) No person shall discharge any effluent other than storm water runoff onto any public right of way and/or into any drainage facility without first obtaining a permit from the chief engineer.

Businesses and property owners are liable for illegal discharges whether the work is performed in-house or contracted out. Violations of the Clean Water Act can result in fines of up to \$25,000 per violation, per day.