

Respect the Reef

Reefs are **alive**, and very fragile

Anchoring

- ◆ Anchor on sandy areas
 - Do not anchor on corals or other reef structures
- ◆ Make sure anchor is secure
 - Dragged anchors can damage corals and substrate

On the Reef

- ◆ Walking on the reef can damage reef structure
- ◆ Be careful to avoid bumping or kicking the surroundings when swimming
 - Corals are fragile and easily broken
- ◆ Avoid stirring up sediments
 - Sediments can settle on corals and smother them
- ◆ Do not grab or touch corals, urchins, sea turtles, algae, or other organisms
 - Marine life is protected by law
 - It can be dangerous to handle marine life
 - Invasive algae can be spread by broken fragments

Marine Life



Green Sea Turtle (Honu)

Protected by law

Finger coral

Common in Kaneohe Bay



Rice coral

Common in Kaneohe Bay



Collector urchin

Native, consumes invasive algae

Banded urchin (wana)
Long spines can be dangerous



Smothering seaweeds

Invasive: Overtakes reefs, spreads by fragmentation



Navigating the Bay

A Guide to Kaneohe Bay's Patch Reefs

Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources

Division of Aquatic Resources

www.dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar



Kaneohe Bay

In case of emergency or incident, contact:

US Coast Guard Honolulu

Radio Channel 16 to report emergencies

Phone 808-842-2656 to report incidents

Legend

- Red Channel Markers
- Green Channel Markers
- Submerged Patch Reef
- Mooring Field

Sandbar

He'eia Harbor

The Google Maps app can also be used as a GPS. Just turn on the *Satellite* and *Location* settings for easy navigating.

Directions to the Sandbar:

- ◆ Exit He'eia Harbor between channel markers 1 and 2
- ◆ Continue straight out from the harbor, past the mooring field on your left
- ◆ Once in the channel, head north towards Chinaman's Hat
- ◆ When you pass red marker 20, head east towards the sandbar, careful to avoid patch reefs

Navigation and Safety Tips:

- ◆ Drive slowly and have a lookout to watch for submerged reef and marine life
- ◆ Look for changes in coloration and water movement across the surface to determine patch reef locations
- ◆ Keep green channel markers to your right and red markers to your left headed to the sandbar (vice versa returning to the harbor)
- ◆ If possible, use a GPS to aid in navigation



Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources

