

Kanoe Mitnick, Maui marine

Wahi Pana

In the last 10 years of my life I've seen so much change throughout the place I live from mountain to the sea. I grew up going to the beach, a lot with my dad who is now 50 years old and has also noticed changes that have happened to these areas too. We often went to the same place to go surfing or just have family birthday parties and family get-togethers and the water and beach was very beautiful. The places we would go to most often as I was growing up were Ukumehame, Oluwalu and Olowalu Point. The place we often went surfing and swimming was Ukumehame, the water was always nice and we as a family would go almost every weekend. I remember the trees in the back on the other side of the road still thriving and well, and there was plenty of beach.

I also remember seeing barely any rubbish and saw trash cans put by people to keep the beach clean and people would care to throw their trash away. I remember always counting turtle heads many would come by while surfing or just be able to see them just off-shore. I also grew up snorkeling with my dad and some friends from time to time at Olowalu and it was awesome, the marine life was very live and there was so many different types of fish and many of them around, fish that I saw very much of was *kole* and *manini* which are types of tang fish also there was many blue and brown *uhu* which are a type of parrot fish all of these fish were very common to me because we ate them when my uncles and my dad went spearfishing. Then Oluwalu Point was another place that wasn't commonly visited by people and we would have family get togethers there and there was so much beach and you could walk down the beach and find starfish and very neat shells and also the reef was very much more live and there were many

coral heads and fish, mostly *manini*. Today in all of these places the water level is visibly higher and you can see this very much at Olowalu point, if you look on the other side of the jetty there is barely any beach to walk on and the reef is very dead. If you were to go snorkeling there you would see dead coral and rocks and you might see a couple fish but besides that the reef is dead.

At Olowalu the water level has also risen visibly and the reef has changed a little.

On the part we liked to go a lot, the reef is dead and there are no fish so you have to swim out or go to another location farther down the beach, also the trees behind the beach on the other side of the road have been cut down and it doesn't look like its thriving much more. People have also gotten lazy on trash and left it on the beach. Ukumehame is also dead because of most likely pollution and when I do go to the beach there with my family I don't see very many turtles and the water has been very dirty and has a dark brown color every time I pass by there and is not as beautiful as it used to be. Ways we could help to change these problems and make better beaches and marine life is we should bring back more attention to the marine life and try to conserve what we are putting into the environment and how much fossil fuels we are putting into the air. We also have to remember that if you leave your trash on the beach the waves are going to come and pull the trash into the water and can damage our marine life severely going as injuring coral reefs and drowning fish and turtles and this can backfire on us because little fish and other marine creatures eat the micro plastics and this continues up near bigger fish in the ocean's food chain to bigger fish that are eaten by many . In the future we should also start to replant coral in areas of beaches to bring back marine life and make a better environment for the fish and restore areas of these beaches that are dying. In conclusion at the end of the day it's up to us people if we want to make a difference in our marine life and if we still want to still see paradise as paradise in the future.