

Oahu DOCARE Makai Watch Briefing Notes

Waimano Branch Office

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Notes

What is Makai Watch? – Makai Watch is a DLNR-DOCARE program. The purpose of the program is to provide opportunities for community volunteers to engage with resource managers and enforcement officers in stewarding their area. The program provides training in DLNR rules and regulations, as well as Observation and Incident reporting. The training does not deputize or provide any enforcement authority to any volunteers.

How is coordinator position funded? – The coordinator position is privately funded by Conservation International and the Castle Foundation. We are currently seeking a civil service position thru legislation for a permanent MW coordinator.

Are volunteers willing to testify in court? Some, not all of volunteers, are willing to testify in court. To help increase that % a protocol was developed to allow MW site coordinator to respond, visually validate, and provide their own report which they can testify if need.

How can Makai Watch support volunteers who would like to remain anonymous? Because MW is a DOCARE program, we will still respond similarly. However, those anonymous callers can be provided the same training as MW volunteers in order to gain a similar understanding of critical information needed for officers to follow-up on.

Is there a way to address communities like Kahana fishers? Yes, we use these communities as an example lesson learned. Communities wishing to engage and partner with DOCARE, need to be the “role model” and lead by example. Many times communities want DOCARE to come into their area and regulate everyone else while the community continues on with their activities that are sometimes illegal.

Reporting System – The biggest problem in DOCARE is the prioritizing of calls. There needs to be a better system in place similar to PD. Right now, officers need to respond to everything and write a lengthy report, even if there was nothing to report.

DOCARE responses

1) How can we improve MW?

- Expand feedback mechanisms (ie how officers can leave comments, if any, for MW staff overseeing volunteers, phone numbers etc.)
- Continue to bridge gap between community and enforcement; Education for community equals understanding; Community involvement will allow them to have self-responsibility
- More training; meet and greet with community and DOCARE
- Make sure calls/reports are valid
- Putting officer in touch with specific site coordinators via phone number or email
- Volunteers need to know and understand all rules they call in
- More pictures for show and tell
- Implement social media outlet

- Provide education for volunteers on the legal burden of DOCARE criminal cases and whats required to adjudicate.

2) *How can MW assist DOCARE?*

- Phone contacts
- Information/education
- More info on what's going on in areas; direct contact to persons in charge
- Provide "actionable cases"
- Pass out copies of 'Ike kai books and keep up-to-date with any HAR/HRS changes
- Understand rules and report responsibly
- Help go through and filter each fishing case
- Keep reporting pertinent info
- Be willing to testify

3) *What does a successful MW look like?*

- For a program in its infancy it is doing well
- Community cohesiveness / self-policing when there is community involvement
- One that educates not enforces
- The timely and thorough passing of information to DOCARE for investigation
- Eyes and Ears for us
- Helps close gap for community and DOCARE
- A close working relationship with all players including DOCARE

4) *How would you measure/evaluate MW programs?*

- # of prosecutable cases
- Decreased # of complaints due to community outreach
- Stepping stones to bigger things
- Decline of violations in area
- Volume of incidents; community feedback
- Amount of actionable cases
- Reduction of violations, number of convictions, officer buy-in
- Successful convictions of what they call-in
- Statistics
- Case tracking, monitor the amount of complaints

5) *Suggestions to improve communication with community*

- Community outreach; good bridge between CULTURE and enforcement
- Involve district officers
- Participate in I+E DOCARE does
- Community meetings
- Social media outlet
- Facilitate meeting with individual communities.