

Makai Watch Training – Meeting Notes

The Kona Makai Watch training was conducted at the West Hawaii Civic Center on Friday December 2nd, 2016. Participating communities included Ka’upulehu, Ho’okena, Kona, and Kohanaiki. Of the participants, 85% were fishers of various methods including pole, spear, throw net, shoreline, deep-sea, and 1 participant who fished “all” methods. The training was supported by three DLNR DOCARE officers, the DLNR DAR Education Specialist for Hawaii Island, and the State Makai Watch coordinator.

Average Pre Test Score: 80%

Average Post Test Score: 98%

70% of participants noted an **increase of knowledge in understanding of DOCARE.**

Questions/Comments

Are there any Triton Trumpet shells remaining in West Hawaii?

A participant responded that triton shells are very rare and most times if someone sees a triton shell, they will take it, even if illegal.

Can Makai Watch volunteers use Drones?

Basically, DOCARE recommends that we keep processes simple and not use drones, however, we cannot condone the use of drones DOCARE did explain, they would not want a volunteer to have a subpoena on their drone in which the courts would have custody of their very pricey equipment. We got a little more in-depth as to how the situation would play out in court, and again, we would open up a whole can of worms that would be very tricky to navigate. Including certification of the drone and certification of the pilot flying the drone. In general, keep it simple, document and report to DOCARE who can do the follow-up and investigation.

Should we ask before taking a picture?

You are more than welcome to ask for a picture. Use the “golden rule” of doing unto others as you would have done unto you. If the situation would make you uncomfortable, it will probably make others feel the same way.

Are there rules about Boating under the influence?

Yes please review HAR 13-244-10 Persons under influence of intoxicating liquor and HAR 13-244-11 Persons under influence of drugs

Are there boating rules about slow-no-wake?

Yes please review HAR 13-244-9 Speed Restrictions

Volunteer Accountability –

- Falsifying reports
- Posting evidence to youtube instead of providing to DOCARE

Participant Feedback:

1) How can we improve Makai Watch?

Somehow more awareness of the training has to go out

Educate public at beach; be visible in community activities; help DOCARE officers

Reach out to invite HS students; work with the visitors bureau

Get into Schools

Keep good records, follow up; more official enforcement

More community involvement

Simplify regulations and educate the community

More education

Great program, great training! Continue trainings! Continue to reach out to community; 501K status to be able to accept donations

Provide funding for snacks and food so that trainings can have

2) How can DOCARE assist Makai Watch?

Sounds like they're doing what can be done. It seems hard with not enough man power

Work hand in hand / report violations; reports written should be screened; feedback, phone numbers with officers

Continued support with feedback

Share more relationship

Helping with educating at training; creating an actual coordinators position for this and fill the need

Have workshops together

Enforce rules

More Relationship

Seems to be a successful partnership; both organizations need more allotted; follow-up as efficiently as possible

3) What does a successful Makai Watch look like?

Concerned citizens informing and creating relationships to care for our marine resources as a whole

Good relationship with the public, enforce rules via brochure

Education and reduction in citations

Big helpful group helping the environment

Where DOCARE, Makai Watch, Fishermen, public all educated

Good relations with the community

Community involvement good relationship with DOCARE

Community harmony and understanding of the rules

More volunteers and education

Try educate, check-in, gather information and share with DOCARE

4) How would you measure/evaluate Makai Watch programs?

Reports made by calls or written info; violations/citations/ public educated

Informative; quality; continued education

It is quality and responsible

Via Stats and Reports, scientific studies

Decrease in violations

Decreased violations and user conflict in area

Decrease in violations increase in fish populations

Improved community understanding and compliance

I think it is a good program and more training needed

By how many people that go to an area are familiar with the program

5) Any suggestions how to improve communication with DOCARE?

Need assistants with the same compassion and heart as the coordinator; maybe a few youtube videos info style where fishermen can share their catch and how they stayed within regulations

Great options provided; DOCARE needs more staff

Electronic contact (ie email)

Combined training with Makai Watch, DOCARE, and community members

We can help to report accurate evidence

Continue to educate society and build quality relationships

Personal relations with officers