

Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement
State of Hawaii Makai Watch Program

Assessment of DOCARE Response Chain focused on Community Violation Reports

Engagement with Makai Watch Communities

Project Background

There has long been community and public perception that when natural resource violations are observed and reported to DOCARE, there is no response, and no follow up with the community. This perceived delay in officer incident response and report follow-up has also been identified in the Makai Watch(MW) Observation and Compliance Project. This project conducted an analysis of perceived “gaps” in the existing observation and compliance through interviews with the MW Advisory group, community members, and individuals with experience with MW or observation and compliance.

Malama Maunalua was involved in that project and have been active stewards in the Maunalua Bay area supporting and organizing community events such as Limu Huki’s (eradication), rain gardens, and community clean-ups. This community is also recognized as a MW community within the MW Strategy, and has received training in the Observation and Incident Reporting Training component.

The acting MW Site coordinator, Jesse Yonover has been in communications with the State Makai Watch coordinator, Luna Kekoa, involving clarifications of Maunalua Bay management rules and regulations, follow-up on 4 consecutive weekends of reported violations called in to 643-DLNR, and to discuss possibilities to engage DOCARE with the community. Both the MW Site coordinator, and the executive director of Malama Maunalua, attended a Makai Watch Strategy presentation and talk story with the State MW coordinator, where these issues were discussed and noted.

The discussion and information from the talk story was shared with the MW Advisory Group, and developed into a discussion on DOCAREs capacity to support individual communities, in specific Maunalua Bay, with officers supporting community patrols. DOCARE expressed that patrols are assigned specifically based upon evidence and patterns that are gathered over time from observation of incidents in an area.

As a follow-up to reported violations, Jesse Yonover contacted Chief Awo to discuss the reported violations and possibilities to engage DOCARE officers with the community. Chief Awo explained that DOCARE engages with all communities the same way, and that communities can receive training by DOCARE in how to collect valid and useful information that can be used to respond and follow-up with.

Response Chain Pilot Project

As a way to address the community concerns and to assess the DOCARE response chain, Chief Awo has created an opportunity to pilot a response chain that DOCARE would use as a model of response and follow-up when receiving violation reports from the public or community volunteers. This project will use the Maunalua MW program as a pilot site and the DOCARE administrative office to facilitate the response chain. This project will build community capacity to collect information and report to DOCARE, as well as assess internal capacity to assure a response back to the community.

DOCARE will provide training and tools that are needed in order to provide efficient information to follow up on with the Maunalua MW. Once training is complete, the MW site coordinator will

compile and send violation reports to the State MW Coordinator. The State MW coordinator will compile and pass on to the DOCARE chief and (training supervisor), who will assist in organizing and building grounds for a prosecutable violation.

Once the DOCARE administrative office has compiled a prosecutable violation, a meeting with the Oahu Branch chief will be held to explain the project, and how the Oahu branch will respond, including assignment to officer, and follow-up with the Administration office and community.

The Oahu branch will then implement the response chain. The officer assigned will follow-up and investigate the incident using the information provided by MW volunteers. If additional information is needed, the MW volunteer and coordinator can be contacted for questions or clarifications. The officer will investigate case to the extent possible, and report back to the administrative office. The administrative office will provide the community with the follow-up.

Community Benefits

Trained in collecting information and reporting violations to DOCARE

Engagement with DOCARE officers in area during training

Increased awareness and knowledge of management layers in Maunalua Bay

DOCARE Benefits

Engagement opportunity with community

Assess capacity to follow-up with community

Assess validity of public perception of response and follow-up

Maunalua Pilot Project:

On November 28th, 2013 an email response was sent to the Malama Maunalua MW coordinator in regards to clarifying rules and regulations b/w DOCARE and DOBOR. More clarifications were provided on January 2, 2014 in regards to DOCAREs ability to provide “special duties” to communities.

The discussion was shared with the DOCARE administration, and the pilot project was created to address the concerns of Malama Maunalua. As a result of the building and implementing the pilot project, 2 initial meetings were held.

The initial meeting occurred on February 12th, and included the MW site program coordinator, the state MW coordinator, and the DOCARE administration. This meeting helped to provide a few guidelines for the MW site program coordinator to work with. Tasks included providing patterns of illegal activities(days and times) as well as a small volunteer pool that would assist in observing and reporting natural resource violations. This meeting was followed-up with a 2nd meeting that served as an introduction to the pilot project volunteers who would be assisting in reporting observed natural resource violations.

The meeting was held in the Maunalua bay area, and the DOCARE administration team was able to provide clarifications to questions regarding rules and regulations in the area.

While compiling reports, violations and video evidence, the MW site coordinator contacted the state MW coordinator in regards to phone calls inquiring and questioning the intentions of the pilot project and why they were reporting violations. This created an opportunity to allow the community sponsoring organization, Malama Maunalua, to provide a community facilitation role and invite the commercial operators of Maunalua to a meeting to discuss the pilot project and issues/concerns in the bay.

The commercial operators meeting was held in April and consisted of employees and owners from 5 commercial operating companies in the bay. Prior to the meeting the state MW coordinator, organized DOBOR, DOCARE, and DAR responses to previously submitted questions from Malama Maunalua. At the meeting commercial operators had the opportunity to clarify with Malama Maunalua the intent of their program, as well as a chance to clarify their questions, concerns, or issues with DOCARE, DOBOR, and DAR.

There was also a follow-up meeting with the Maunalua Coordinator and DOCARE to discuss and clarify the relationship with the Fisher Hui and Malama Maunalua, as well as the involvement of these groups with the Commercial operators in Maunalua Bay.

As a follow-up to Statewide Makai Watch workshop with DOCARE (6/19) The Maunalua coordinator was able to meet with the Oahu Branch Chief and district supervisor to discuss the next steps identified as well as follow-up on a few reported violations. This meeting was then followed up by a meeting with DOBOR to discuss the commercial operations rules and regulations.

On June 27, Island Divers, Island Watersports, and H2O Sports Hawaii were provided with informal outreach and education about rules and regulations in the bay by the State Makai Watch coordinator. There was also an email discussion with Jesse about the location of commonly used dive sites by these operators, as well as clarification with the Parasail Zones.

On August 26, the State MW coordinator attended the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood board meeting regarding enforcement of Marine activities in Maunalua Bay. Some of the questions that were provided by the Board included some about the Maunalua Pilot Project

On September 25th, a meeting with the MW Site program coordinator, the Statewide MW coordinator, and the DOCARE administration was held to discuss dissolving the pilot project since the relationship between Oahu DOCARE and the Maunalua community is good and the communication back and forth is working.

In October, the Oahu Branch Chief provided a monthly report of the activities and violations that were observed and cited within the Maunalua bay area.

Violations Cited

July

- Illegally Moored Boat
- Commercial Operations outside of designated zone (7/31)

August

- On August 2, 2014 at about 1400 hours 2 males were cited for operating Personal Thrill Craft in waters off Maunalua Bay without the required operator safety certificate.
- On August 4, 2014 at about 1000 hours, a male was cited for possession of a under size throw net near the Maunalua Bay harbor boat ramp. The male was detained by a harbor user until HPD and DOCARE arrived and subsequently cited for the violation.
- Officers stepped up enforcement of Personal Watercraft operations in Maunalua Bay over the weekend (8/16-17), conducting numerous inspections that resulted in the issuance of a citation for not having the required safety course certificate.

October

- Officers stopped and inspected 2 males loading nets in their vehicle in the Kahala area, the males claimed they were engaged in surround net fishing not lay net fishing. The officers was unable to verify the males were using the lay net method of fishing and subsequently educated them of the rules prohibiting lay net fishing in the area.
- Officers recovered 200 ft. of net in waters off Kawaiiki Beach park, no suspects located and/or claimed the net. Officers also recovered 2 undersize throw nets was stashed in a basket near the stream at the same location, no suspects found the net was recovered and submitted for disposal.
- Officers from the DOCARE Marine Patrol Unit (MPU) patrolled Maunalua Bay in an effort to gain compliance from both recreational and commercial operators in the bay. The MPU inspected commercial dive boats for safety gear and area operating in and found the dive boat operators in compliance.

Cases for the month of November and December 2014 at Maunalua Bay.

- 1- lay net.....fisherman were engaged in surround net fishing. No Violation
- 1- commercial vessel blocking ramp... Officer educated vessel captain
- 1- illegal dumping in ocean (Pool Water).....The case was referred to the Department of Health
- 2- parking violations (Trailer Parking Only) Citations Issued