

Be Smart!

- Learn, get educated and share your knowledge of Hawaii's makai areas with others.
- Obey all signs. They are there for your protection.
- Pick up trash, even if it is not yours. Trash can damage and kill a wide variety of marine life.
- Report dumping, poaching and other illegal practices that harm our ocean environment.
- Respect cultural sites, native Hawaiian cultural practices and sacred places.
- Be considerate of marine life and their habitat.
- Don't feed the wildlife. Let sea birds, sea turtles, fish and other wildlife feed on their natural foods.
- Leave coral, shells, sand and rocks where they lay. These all provide valuable resources for marine life including shelter, homes and even food. Collecting live coral or rock is illegal.
- Stay on coastal roads and trails. Beaches and coastal vegetation are fragile and shells, plants and animals can be crushed by the weight of vehicles.
- Keep your fins, gear and hands away from coral.
- Take only pictures, and leave only bubbles.
- Remember safety first. Contact the appropriate individuals regarding water conditions and safety precautions in and near the water before entering.
- Use moorings or anchor in the sand. Dropping anchors on reefs damages and breaks apart coral.
- Pick up abandoned fishing gear (nets, lines, hooks). They can injure marine life and humans.
- Dispose of cigarettes properly. The beach and ocean are not ashtrays.

Ho'okuleana

“to take responsibility”

Ho'okuleana is the theme of DLNR's outreach efforts that strive to involve communities and constituencies in assisting in the management of our natural and cultural resources.

In a single word, Ho'okuleana is focused on “responsibility.” Our individual and collective responsibility to:

Participate - rather than ignore

Prevent - rather than react

Preserve - rather than degrade

Let's work together to better understand, respect, use, care about and care for our natural and cultural resources and, by doing so, make Hawaii a great place to live.

Mauka – Makai

From the Mountains to the Sea

Mauka (toward the mountains) and Makai (toward the ocean) are not just directional references; they embody our fundamental natural and cultural resources, land and ocean.

Hawaiians believe there is a balance between ocean and land. In traditional times, the ocean and its marine life were as well known as the life attributes of the upland areas.

This intimate relationship with nature resonates today in the modern principle of sustainability. We continue a strong interconnected, interrelated and interdependent relationship with our natural and cultural resources.

Some call it ecosystem-based stewardship; to the Hawaiians, this was exemplified in the ahupua'a (an ancient land division system divided into strips of land from the mountain to the sea supporting self-contained communities.)

The legacy of the mountain-to-sea management system and the attention to ecosystem-focused sustainability continue today. Living on islands requires balance in addressing human needs while protecting our natural and cultural resources.

We must hold our islands in good stewardship for the generations to come.

Our natural and cultural resources are not simply historic sites, oceans, streams, mountains, trees, birds and fish. They are the foundation of our economy and the key to our quality of life.

Our natural and cultural resources define Hawaii's “sense of place.” They make and keep Hawaii, Hawaii.

Makai

“toward the ocean”

An introductory guide to better understand, respect, use, care about and take care of the natural and cultural resources of Hawaii's makai region



State of Hawaii
Department of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Makai: Cultural Significance

Early Hawaiians recognized the importance of corals and the coral reef as a major component of our islands. The coral polyp was the first creature to emerge in the Kumulipo – a traditional Hawaiian account of creation.

The ocean was the great highway between shore locations and between islands. Though trails existed, the easiest way of getting from one shore area to another was by sea. Therefore, the bulk of the population preferred to live along the shore.

Hawaii's land, water and ocean resources perpetuate the life and spirituality of the people of the Hawaiian Islands.

Many Hawaiians believe that departed spirits have taken bodily form in natural features such as plants, animals, geological formations, even rocks.

Some ocean animals were `aumakua, ancestral spirits, to be nurtured and never harmed.

Hawaiians were intimately aware of life cycles of marine resources, and managed their use of those resources for sustainability, because their existence depended on it.

Today these resources remain important, and we all should care for them.



Hawaii's Makai Environment

- Surrounded by ocean, the Hawaiian Archipelago stretches 1,500 miles NW to SE and includes 132 islands, atolls, reefs and shoals.
- Hawaii is unique; 25% of Hawaii's marine species are endemic, meaning they are only found in Hawaii and nowhere else in the world.
- No point in Hawaii is further than 29 miles from the coast – half of Hawaii is within 5-miles of the coast.
- Hawaii is home to 80% of all coral reef area in the United States.
- The main Hawaiian Islands are surrounded by almost 410,000 acres of coral reefs.
- Hawaii's ocean industries, including ocean recreation, generate over \$3 billion annually in gross revenues to Hawaii's economy.



Our Stewardship Responsibility

Whether near the coast or in the most remote interior regions, there will be unique natural and cultural resources that we are all called upon to care for.

Coastal areas are finite. Their environmental and economic health must be balanced with human demands.

It is for the protection of our food source and economic and traditional livelihood that many of our makai areas were set aside as specially managed areas.

Over time, these same areas were recognized for their importance as fishing areas, native ecosystems, recreation areas, and for their aesthetic and economic value.

Our ecosystems have developed in extreme isolation. Our islands are like small boats in the vast ocean. We all rely on them and should care for them, because our lives depend on it.



What makes Hawaii special?

Coral reefs are the largest continuous living structures on Earth. Such structures are composed on colonies of individual coral animals, called polyps. Each coral polyp may be smaller than the head of a pin.

The existence of coral reefs makes the islands more hospitable to people. Reefs protect our shoreline from dangerous waves and storm surges.

Without coral reefs we would not have our beautiful white sandy beaches, since most of our sand comes from the reef. Coral reefs are also important because they provide habitat and shelter for fish and other marine life.

The intimate knowledge that the protection and maintenance of ocean resources is important to their conservation was, and continues to be, abiding in the Hawaiian way of life.

Hawaii is home to many unique species. State and Federal law protect whales, dolphins, seals and sea turtles. Keep a safe distance between yourself and these creatures while in the ocean and on shore for their safety, as well as your own.

