



# Storm Water Pollution Prevention

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism  
Hawaii Community Development Authority

## What is storm water runoff?

In urban and suburban environments, impervious surfaces (such as streets, roofs, parking lots, and sidewalks) do not allow rain to soak into the ground resulting in **storm water runoff**. Because of this, many developed areas depend on storm drains to carry large volumes of runoff to receiving water bodies. Along the way, runoff can pick up grease, chemicals, dirt, litter, and other pollutants that harm water quality, threaten aquatic ecosystems, and degrade the water bodies that we use for fishing and recreation.

## But doesn't storm water runoff get treated?



Runoff collected by storm drains is discharged to the nearest stream, drainage channel, or the ocean, not to a treatment plant.

## What are some possible pollutants?

- Sediment
- Oil, grease, wash water, and other chemicals from motor vehicles
- Litter such as styrofoam containers, plastic bags, and beverage containers
- Commercial fats, oils, and grease (FOG) waste
- Viruses, bacteria, and nutrients from pet waste, green waste, and sewage
- Household hazardous substances such as paints, batteries, and solvents
- Fertilizers and pesticides from landscaping
- Construction waste and material



Litter found inside a Kakaako catch basin

## What is being done to prevent storm water pollution in the Kakaako District?

Almost 200 storm drains and several miles of drainage pipes in the Kakaako District make up the Kakaako Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (Small MS4). As owners of this storm drainage system, the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) developed and implements a **Storm Water Management Program**, that includes:

- Public Education, Outreach and Participation
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control
- Post-Construction Storm Water Management
- Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping

The entire Storm Water Management Program Plan can be viewed online at <http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda>.



Kakaako Waterfront Park

## What can I do to help?

Everyone can help keep our streams and oceans healthy by using **Best Management Practices**, or BMPs, in their day-to-day activities. BMPs are simple methods and techniques to prevent and reduce potential pollutants from entering the storm drainage system. These include:

- Sweep up litter and debris from sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots, especially around storm drains.
- Check vehicles regularly for leaks, clean up spills, and properly dispose of any vehicle fluids.
- Pick up after pets.
- Do not litter. Securely bag trash and keep trash lids covered to prevent litter from blowing away.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly.
- Take cars to a commercial car wash or wash over a grassed or graveled area to prevent wash water from flowing into the storm drainage system.
- Purchase and store only the minimum amount of chemical products needed and dispose of waste products properly.

### Where can I get more information?

Some useful websites with more storm water BMPs for both individuals and specific industries are listed below. For questions about our storm water management program, email us at [dbedt.hcda.contact@hawaii.gov](mailto:dbedt.hcda.contact@hawaii.gov).

- City and County of Honolulu storm water website: [www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com](http://www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com)
- Information on recycling and proper disposal of household hazardous waste: [www.opala.org](http://www.opala.org)
- State of Hawaii Department of Transportation storm water website: [www.stormwaterhawaii.com](http://www.stormwaterhawaii.com)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency storm water website: [www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater)