



Ocean Friendly Restaurants & Storm Water Pollution Prevention

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

The Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) takes great pride in the Kakaako neighborhood as an example of mixed use and low impact development, as well as a community gathering place, with a focus on local businesses and sustainability. The HCDA as part of their **Storm Water Management Program** is taking action to promote appropriate pollution prevention practices during construction, and permanent low impact development and post-construction stormwater management features, as well as community education and outreach aimed at trash reduction and protection of our streams and nearshore waters. Many people do not realize that runoff, trash, and pollutants collected by storm drains are discharged to streams, drainage channels, and the ocean, not to treatment plants. Even when waste is disposed of properly in trash receptacles, waste can still enter storm drains and waters when these containers are rummaged through, overflow during rain events, or trash is blown away by the wind. The HCDA is delighted that the Kakaako neighborhood is home to many **Ocean Friendly Restaurants (OFR)** which promote these shared goals and objectives of environmental stewardship and the elimination of single use plastics.



What makes a restaurant ocean friendly?

The Surfrider Foundation (Surfrider), a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the world's oceans, waves, and beaches, runs the OFR Program. The program aims to reduce the amount of plastic waste entering our oceans by reducing plastic use at restaurants. For a food establishment to become ocean friendly certified, Surfrider has developed a set of criteria for restaurants to follow.

At a minimum, restaurants must abide by seven criteria:

Five (5) required baseline criteria:

- 1) No Styrofoam,
- 2) Proper recycling practices,
- 3) Reusable tableware used for onsite dining, and disposable utensils for takeout food provided only upon request,
- 4) No plastic bags offered for takeout or to-go orders, and
- 5) Straws provided only upon request.

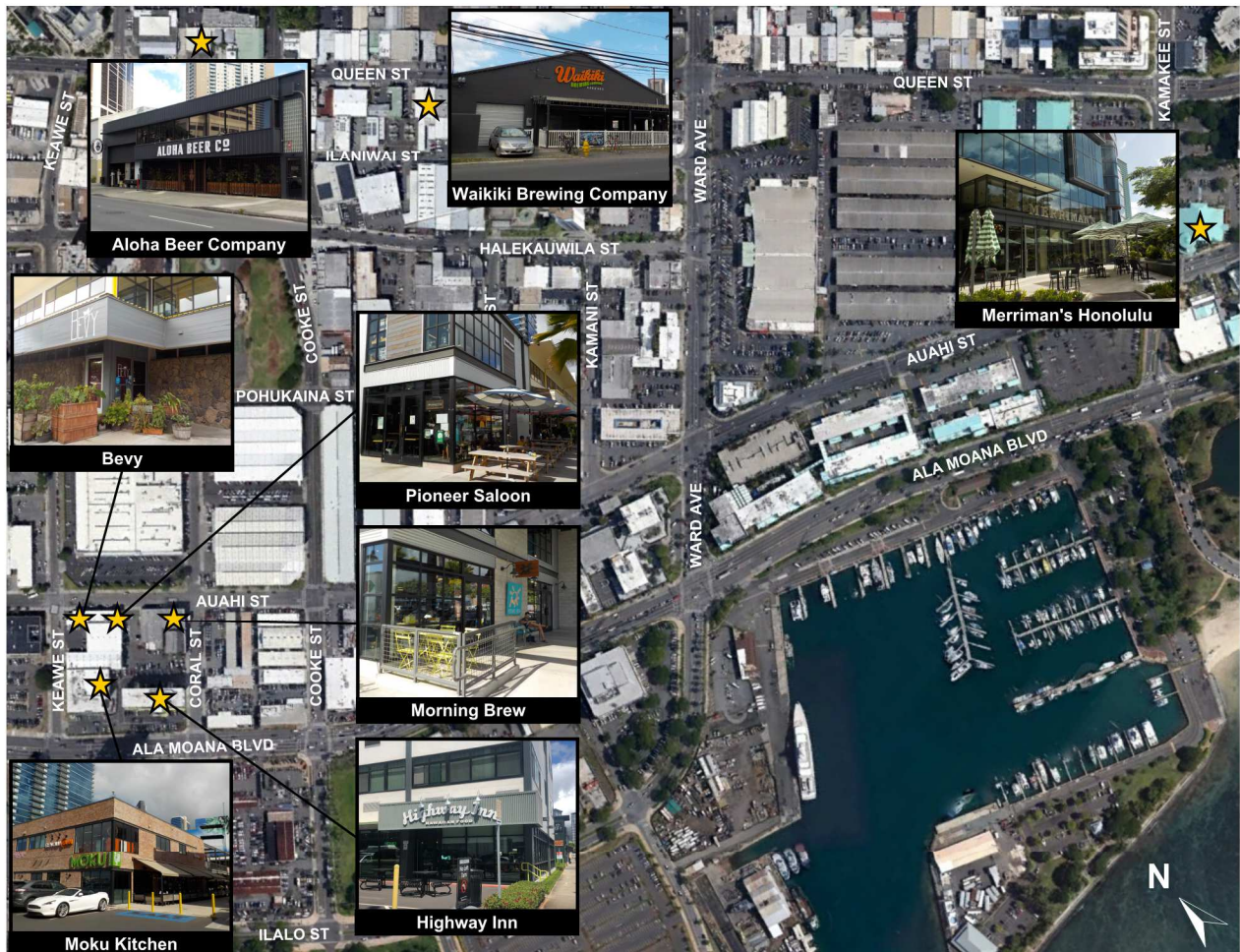
And a choice of two (2) out of the following criteria:

- 6) No beverages sold in plastic bottles,
- 7) Discount offered for customers with reusable cup, mug, bag, etc.,
- 8) Vegetarian/vegan food options offered on a regular basis,
- 9) All seafood must be a 'Best Choice' or 'Good Alternative' as defined by Seafood Watch or certified as sustainable,
- 10) Water conservation efforts (i.e. low-flow faucets and toilets), and
- 11) Energy efficient efforts (i.e. LED lights, Energy Star appliances).

What beneficial impacts do ocean friendly restaurants have?

Plastic waste and litter can enter our oceans via storm drains. By becoming an OFR, restaurants are significantly reducing their plastic waste and reducing storm water pollution. Within the Kakaako neighborhood, there are 8 certified OFRs:

- Aloha Beer Company,
- Bevy,
- Moku Kitchen,
- Morning Brew Café,
- Pioneer Saloon,
- Waikiki Brewing Company, and
- Merriman's at Ward
- Highway Inn



When asked how participation in the OFR program has helped their business and the community, Andy Flartey, the general manager of Waikiki Brewing Company, has noticed that “a lot of our local guests really respect what we are trying to do in keeping as much plastic and waste out of our oceans as we possibly can. As for our visiting guests, it is great to at the very least try to educate them to what we are trying to accomplish! Every eye that we open can help to keep our oceans that much cleaner and healthier, and in the end, that is all that matters!”



Waikiki Brewing Company Kakaako Pub



Morning Brew Kakaako

Quantitatively, Morning Brew Café has reduced their plastic usage by 3,000 plastic cups a week and 5,000 straws a month. Morning Brew Café adheres to criteria No. 3 with only reusable plates, cups, and utensils being used onsite.

For Morning Brew Café owner, Peter Anderson, becoming an OFR has created a platform for the Kakaako and SALT community to come together in a joint effort and to create an identity for the neighborhood as an ocean friendly environment.

What are the next steps to becoming ocean friendly as a neighborhood and community?

- Support OFRs and be mindful of alternative to single-use plastics when grocery shopping, dining in or out, and purchasing products.
- To support the program, you can now find an OFR near you with the new OFR Map: go.surfrider.org/ofr-app.
- Carry reusable utensils with you and consider bringing your own reusable coffee cup and/or container when grabbing takeout or think you may want to bring home leftovers.
- Participate in a beach cleanup – more information can be found through the local Surfrider Oahu at <https://oahu.surfrider.org>, 808 Cleanups at www.808cleanups.org, and Friends of Kewalos at <http://www.kewalo.org>.

- Restaurants can register for the OFR program at <http://www.oceanfriendlyrestaurantshawaii.org/>
- Spread the word on what it means to be ocean friendly!

HCDC would like to encourage patronage of OFRs and encourage more business to take steps to reduce pollution, unnecessary waste, and register as an OFR.