



**US Army Corps
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 23, 2007

Washington Middle School Students Sample, Assess Ala Wai Watershed on World Water Monitoring Day 2007

(HONOLULU NR 037-07) On Oct. 19, 48 Washington Middle School students in grades seven and eight created a snapshot of the water quality in Makiki Stream and Ala Wai Boat Harbor as they participated in a safe sampling and assessment of the Ala Wai watershed as part of World Water Monitoring Day 2007.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District, State of Hawaii Department of Health Clean Water Branch and City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services hosted the event in coordination with Washington Middle School science teacher Philip Anderson.

“Water quality sampling provides the students with hands-on experience into another dimension of the environment they may take for granted and often do not see in their day to day activities,” said Michael Wong, hydraulic engineer from Honolulu District’s Environmental Technical branch.

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Since 2003 the City and County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii Department of Health and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have sponsored World Water Monitoring Day learning activities with Washington Middle School.

This year the Washington Middle School students learned about the ahupua`a concept, ecosystem restoration and water quality monitoring at two locations in Honolulu - Magic Island adjacent to Ala Wai Boat Harbor and Makiki Stream near Washington Middle School.

“A key learning point for them is environmental stewardship - how their actions or inaction affects their environment. The Corps' co-hosting of this learning opportunity helps reinforce the students' awareness,” Wong said.

Students collected and measured water samples using both field instruments and educational monitoring kits to determine how the parameters of pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, nitrate, phosphate, and conductivity relate to each other.

World Water Monitoring Day was initiated by America's Clean Water Foundation (ACWF) in 2002 as a significant part of the events in observance of the 30th Anniversary of the United States Clean Water Act. It serves as a global educational platform for watershed leaders, educators and trained volunteers to help those with little or no experience better understand how the actions of individuals in a watershed can impact many others. According to ACWF more than 3,900 sites were monitored in 39 countries in 2006.

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The data collected by the students will be uploaded into usable global databases at <http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org/>.

Participating in the event with Wong and Philip Anderson were: Iwalani Sato and Benny Anagaran, City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services; and Scott Murakawa, State of Hawaii Department of Health Clean Water Branch.

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