

**Public Affairs Office
Honolulu Engineer District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440**

**Contact: Dino Buchanan or
Joe Bonfiglio
Telephone (808) 438-9862**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2005

Corps of Engineers Partners With Ala Wai Association For Earth Day Activities

By Dino W. Buchanan, Honolulu Engineer District Public Affairs

(HONOLULU - April 18, 2005 - NR-09-05) - In partnership with more than 460 volunteers, the Ala Wai Watershed Association, state environmental offices and 25 local civic organizations, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continued to focus on excellence, innovation and enthusiasm for the environment during Earth Day 2005. This year's theme was "*Mother Earth, For You a Lei.*"

At the April 23 event, the Corps' Pacific Regional Visitor Center at Ft. DeRussy in Waikiki provided a hub for free trolley transportation to one of seven Earth Day study, information and educational sites located throughout the Ala Wai watershed area. At these sites the public and volunteers participated in activities ranging from Corps environmental project seminars and informational booths to stream trash cleanups, storm drain stenciling and a fish re-stocking at the beach adjacent to the Waikiki Aquarium.

Inside the Corps' RVC more than 75 volunteers and information specialists provided a plethora of environmental information and informational seminars about the environment and Corps environmental projects.

"The Regional Visitor Center was our focal point for the 2005 Earth Day celebration as we had more than 10 environmental government, state and local agencies promote the environment with information booths. Our informational seminars featured local professional and educational environmental experts who provided the most current information on the Ala Wai Watershed and Hawaiian reef restoration projects. It was a great event for the Corps, Hawaii and the environment," said Lt. Col. David E. Anderson, Commander, Honolulu Engineer District.

One seminar participant agreed with Lt. Col. Anderson that Earth Day 2005 was an important informational event.

"Reef Check Hawaii appreciated the opportunity to present to the community findings from our surveys in the Waikiki area and to provide updates to the public on our project status, " said Dave Raney, Community Outreach Coordinator of Reef Check Hawaii.

For more information about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Honolulu Engineer District, log on to the HED web site at:

<http://www.poh.usace.army.mil/>.

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