



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Corps of Engineers and Washington Middle School Students Participate in World Water Monitoring Day 2006

By Honolulu District Public Affairs

(HONOLULU – NR- 32 -06) – On October 20, 60 Honolulu-area middle school students will create a snapshot of the water quality in Makiki Stream as they participate in a fun and safe sampling and assessment of the Makiki watershed.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, State of Hawaii Department of Health - Clean Water Branch, City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services and the Hawaii Nature Center are hosting this event in support of World Water Monitoring Day along with science teacher Debbie Jensen from Washington Middle School.

The 60 students from Washington Middle School will learn more about the Ahupua`a concept, ecosystem restoration, aquatic species and water quality monitoring at three locations in Honolulu.

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The Ahupua'a is an ancient Hawaiian land division system in which strips of land extended from the mountain to the sea. The Ahupua'a supported a self-contained community working with a spirit of cooperation, revering the land to meet the needs of all.

Students will start at the Hawaii Nature Center at 8:30 a.m. and then travel to Makiki Stream near the Honolulu Board of Water Supply pumping station at 9:30 a.m. or the Ala Wai Canal at McCully Street Bridge for water sampling, and finishing their day at the Ala Wai Canal phytoremediation project at 12:15 p.m.

Phytoremediation is a technology that uses the natural properties of plants in engineered systems to remediate pollution.

Students participating in the hands-on field investigation will collect and measure 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. Data collected by the students will be uploaded into usable global databases at <http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org/>.

Corps of Engineers, State of Hawaii and City and County of Honolulu personnel participating in this year's event:

- Iwalani Sato and Randall Wakumoto, City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services
- Scott Murakawa and others, State of Hawaii Department of Health Clean Water Branch

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- Hawaii Nature Center staff
- Michael Wong, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

World Water Monitoring Day was initiated by America's Clean Water Foundation (ACWF) in 2002 as a significant part of the events held 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.

In July 2006 the Water Environment Federation (WEF) assumed operation of World Water Monitoring Day activities from ACWF.

According to WEF, in 2005 more than 4,917 World Water Monitoring Day sites with more than 44,000 participants were registered across the world in 47 countries.

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For more information, contact: Michael Wong, Hydraulic Engineer at the Honolulu District at 438-8866.