



**US Army Corps  
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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- 36 -06)** – On Oct. 20, 60 Honolulu-area middle school students created a snapshot of the water quality in Makiki Stream as they participated 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 teamed up to host the event in support of World Water Monitoring Day along with science teacher Debbie Jensen from Washington Middle School.

The Washington Middle School students learned 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.

The day began at the Hawaii Nature Center and included water sampling at Makiki Stream and observation of the Ala Wai Canal phytoremediation project.

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

At Makiki Stream, students conducted a hands-on field investigation by collecting and measuring 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 was uploaded into the usable global databases at <http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org/> and will become part of the analysis of the world's water supply.

According to Michael Wong, a hydraulic engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the event increases the public's awareness of the environment.

“The message we are trying to give them is to be good stewards of their environment,” Wong said.

Participants from the agencies included:

- Iwalani Sato and Randall Wakumoto of the City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services

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- Scott Murakawa and others from the State of Hawaii Department of Health Clean Water Branch
- Hawaii Nature Center staff
- Michael Wong and Garland Ireland of the 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.