



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

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

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Corps of Engineers joins City and County of Honolulu and Federal
Partners to Celebrate Earth Day 2008 Activities at Pacific Regional
Visitor Center**

By Honolulu District Public Affairs

(HONOLULU NR-14-08) - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently joined with the City and County of Honolulu, other federal partners and concerned citizens to participate in Honolulu's *Mauka to Makai* Cleanup as part of Earth Day 2008.

Approximately 57 volunteers from the Corps, Tripler Army Medical Center and Navy Region Hawaii joined local high school students and community members to clean up the beach and berm area of the Corps' Pacific Regional Visitor Center (RVC) at Fort DeRussy on April 12.

"I feel good about doing this," said Lt. Col. Robert Takao, commander of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps at Punahou High School. "This is a good opportunity to give back to the community."

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2-2-2 CORPS EARTH DAY 2008

The cleanup was also held in honor of the International Year of the Reef and the efforts to protect Oahu's reefs.

"I was happy to join the Earth Day volunteers. We gathered a significant amount of trash from the beach and berm area at Fort DeRussy," said Jim Pennaz, chief of the Civil Works Technical Branch at the Honolulu District. "Our Park Ranger, Garland Ireland, did a super job in organizing and coordinating this event."

In addition, to the Fort DeRussy cleanup, the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Environmental Services, sponsored other environmental events the same day including:

- Waikiki Beach Cleanup
- Ala-Moana Boulevard Adopt-A-Highway
- Manoa Adopt-A-Stream
- Palolo Adopt-A-Stream
- Manoa-Palolo Drainage Channel Adopt-A-Stream and Beautification
- *Mauka to Makai* Expo at the Waikiki Aquarium
- Armored Catfish Roundup
- Restocking Hawaii's Prized Moi

The goal of the *Mauka to Makai* cleanup was to showcase the efforts of government agencies to preserve and protect Hawaii's environment with an emphasis on Hawaii's unique water resources from the mountains to the sea.

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3-3-3 CORPS EARTH DAY 2008

All of the events featured family-friendly and hands-on educational displays by city, state and federal agencies and the University of Hawaii. Over 400 people participated city-wide.

Volunteers and representatives from the Ala Wai Association, 20 local civic organizations and the co-sponsors provided manpower for events throughout the Ala Wai Watershed area focusing on this year's U.S. Army Earth Day theme of "Sustaining the Environment for a Secure Future" and Honolulu's Earth Day 2008 theme of "Be An Everyday Environmental Hero."

Earth Day is an annual event in Honolulu and increases awareness and support for ongoing education and efforts to build partnerships and grassroots involvement to keep the *aina* clean year-round. Earth Day was established March 21, 1970 as an annual event to deepen reverence and care for life on the planet.

For more information about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, log on to the Honolulu District website: <http://www.poh.usace.army.mil>; or call 438-2815 for information about the Pacific Regional Visitor Center.

The Corps' RVC first opened its doors at Battery Randolph in 1983. Its goal is to enhance the public's understanding of the multidimensional role of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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4-4-4 CORPS EARTH DAY 2008

Particular emphasis is on civil works and water resources development that affect the lives of all the residents of Hawaii and the people of the Pacific.

The RVC is located on the second floor of historic Battery Randolph at Fort DeRussy, Waikiki. Battery Randolph is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites and is one of 16 coastal fortifications built by the Corps between 1906 and 1917 for the protection of Honolulu and Pearl harbors.