



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 12, 2010**

## **Corps of Engineers joins City and County of Honolulu and Community Members to Celebrate Earth Day 2010**

By Joseph Bonfiglio, Honolulu District Public Affairs

**(Honolulu, Hawaii NR12-10)** Volunteers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers partnered with the city and county of Honolulu and other concerned citizens to participate in Honolulu's Earth Day 2010 Mauka to Makai Environmental Expo, Saturday.

Approximately 15 volunteers from the Punahou High School Junior ROTC program (which includes students from 15 area high schools including Punahou, Damien, Sacred Hearts, Saint Francis and La Pietra), members of the North America Taiwanese Association Hawaii Chapter and Corps' employees and family members joined forces to clean up the beach and berm area of the Corps' Pacific Regional Visitor Center (RVC) at Fort DeRussy and the shoreline revetment at the Kakaako Waterfront Park. Over 60 volunteers participated.

"I feel good about doing this," said Lt. Col. Robert Takao, commander of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps at Punahou High School.

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## **Earth Day 2010 2/2/2/2**

“Our program has been doing this for several years now. It’s a very worthwhile endeavor. Earth Day is about our future. It’s really our way of giving back to this great land and world that we live in and it’s important for us to understand how fragile the eco-systems are and what our responsibility is as inhabitants of this world to do our part to sustain it for our future,” Takao said.

These sentiments were echoed by Punahou JROTC Cadet, Daylan DeMello.

“I feel good about it because we’re taking care of the earth and doing our part. We need to take care of the earth because one day it’ll give back to us,” DeMello said.

In the same vein, Julie Rohrer, administrative assistant for the Honolulu District Engineering Services Branch and president of the North America Taiwanese Association Hawaii Chapter, said, “it makes us feel good that we are useful and that we’re doing something and contributing our efforts to our community to keep our environment nice and clean.”

The cleanup was part of Earth Month Mauka to Makai efforts to protect the Ala Wai Watershed and Oahu’s reefs.

“We’re celebrating Earth Day with our volunteer groups to come out and clean not only the beach berm behind the Regional Visitor Center but also down over at Kakaako Park, picking up the litter, and making people aware of some of the things and activities we can do to help save our planet,” said Steve Yamamoto, chief of the Civil Works Technical Branch at the Honolulu District.

“I always feel good when we can convey some of the messages about saving our planet and to keeping it clean to the younger kids,” Yamamoto said.

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## **Earth Day 2010 3/3/3**

“Our Park Rangers, Angela Jones and Corey Yamashita and my administrative assistant, Joanne Brostrom 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 an Earth Day Mauka to Makai Environmental Expo at the Waikiki Aquarium with participants from many organizations interested in keeping Honolulu green and clean.

The expo showcased the efforts of city, state and federal agencies to preserve and protect Hawai'i's environment, with an emphasis on the Islands' unique water resources.

Mauka to Makai, an environmental expo at Waikīkī Aquarium, offered family-friendly activities and hands-on educational displays. The free green event showcased more than 20 city, state and federal agencies that work together to preserve and protect Hawai'i's environment, with an emphasis on Hawai'i's water resources.

Highlights included:

- release of kona kampachi and seahorses into Wakīkī conservation waters
- water pollution prevention games and activity books
- natural-resource arts and crafts and picture-taking with water quality mascot 'Apoha the O'opu
- the first 500 families through the door received a native plant in celebration of the aquarium's new Hawaiian Native Plant exhibit

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## **Earth Day 2010 4/4/4/4**

Cindy Barger of the Honolulu District attended the expo and told participants about the Ala Wai Watershed project in which the Corps is teaming up with the city and county of Honolulu and the state of Hawaii to study various solutions for a comprehensive watershed approach to reducing the risk of flooding, restore the aquatic ecosystem and improving the water quality of the area. Barger manned the Corps' booth at the event to educate the community on issues in the watershed and objectives of the Ala Wai Watershed Project.

Partners in the Ala Wai Watershed Project also had booths at the event: the Natural Resources Conservation Service; city and county Department of Environmental Services; Board of Water Supply; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Commission for Water Resource Management and the Department of Health.

All of the events featured family-friendly and hands-on educational displays by city, state and federal agencies and the University of Hawaii. Hundreds of people participated in several events around the city and county including many adopt a stream clean ups in the Ala Wai watershed.

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.

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## **Earth Day 2010 5/5/5/5**

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.

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.