



## PROTECT OUR WATER

A COMMERCIAL BUSINESS GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING STORM WATER

### Did you know that storm drains lead to the ocean?

That's right! Anything that goes into a storm drain will end up in the ocean. This is why it is important for **everyone** to be aware of the dangers of putting harmful things down the storm drains and do their part to help stop pollution.

### Is it against the law to pour or dump anything into a storm drain?

Anything that goes into a storm drain eventually finds its way into the ocean. There are federal laws that prohibit dumping in storm drains and the penalties include thousands of dollars in fines and possible jail time. So please don't dump into the storm drain.

### I don't dump anything directly into storm drains so I'm okay, right?

Not necessarily. When it rains, the water that goes down the storm drain is called storm water runoff. Storm water runoff itself does not usually harm the environment. However, driveways, sidewalks, streets, parking areas, and even rooftops tend to accumulate pollutants quickly. Typical pollutants include oil, grease, traces of metals, sediment, phosphorous, nitrogen and other chemicals. The storm water runoff washes these pollutants off your property and carries them into our storm drains, where they affect water quality in our streams and the ocean.

### Then why do we have storm drains?

Well, when it rains, water seeps into the ground, adding to O'ahu's water supply. At times, it rains so much that the ground cannot absorb it all (like a kitchen sponge that is filled to capacity). Storm water runoff occurs when excess rainwater then flows over the surface of the ground until it finds its way to the ocean through streams and the storm drain system. The storm drain system actually helps to prevent flooding so your business can go on!

### So what can I do to help?

- **EDUCATION** - You can help by talking to your employees to make sure that they are aware of the impact of dumping into the storm drains.
- **PERMITS** - You should check to make sure that if you connect to a storm drain owned by the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT), you have the proper connection permit.\*

## PROTECT OUR WATER: WHAT CAN I DO?



### DID YOU KNOW?

*Storm water violators are breaking the law! If you notice a possible storm water violation, please report it by calling the Storm Water Hotline at 566-2222 or submitting it on our Web site at [stormwaterhawaii.com/contact/](http://stormwaterhawaii.com/contact/).*

- **ENFORCEMENT** - You can help by making sure that all of your neighbors are also following these rules. Otherwise, you should report pollution that you observe so that we do not continue to pollute our ocean!

Commercial properties can be inspected by HDOT for compliance with federal clean water laws. If your parcel is adjacent to HDOT roads or highways, you may already be on a list for future inspections. Inspectors check for connections via pipes or discharges to the HDOT storm drains, as well as good housekeeping practices, outdoor storage, accumulation of possible pollutants, and the drainage patterns of your parcel.

### \*Permits? What permits?

Anytime a business connects to the HDOT storm drain system, that business needs to get a permit from the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation, Highways Division. For more information, please contact HDOT at 483-7290.

**Need more information?** Go to our Web site at [stormwaterhawaii.com](http://stormwaterhawaii.com).



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MĀLAMA I KA WAI  
STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION