

National Public Lands Day Announcement

Who: Conservation Heroes such as yourself!

What: An opportunity to increase one's awareness of how invasive species in Hawaii alter coastal environments and the biology of the island. We will be removing non-native, invasive red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) by using garden hand loppers (please bring your own if you have them).

Where: Ahua Reef Beach, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam

When: Saturday, September 25th, 0800-1200 Hrs

Why: Native Hawaiian shorebirds such as the Pacific Golden Plover, Hawaiian Stilt, Wandering Tattler, Ruddy Turnstone, and Sanderling cannot utilize coastal environments inhabited by non native mangrove species. Red mangrove creates an impervious monoculture that prohibits native birds from accessing much needed open sand flats for feeding and nesting habitat (Stilts). They were intentionally introduced to Hawaii in 1902 and 1922 by the Hawaii Sugar Planters Association and have spread throughout the archipelago. This species also creates anoxic (reduced oxygen levels) water conditions that prevent marine life from establishing itself in areas dominated by overgrowth and decay.

Questions:

1) Who do I contact if I don't have base access?

If you know someone who has base access for Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, please catch a ride with them if possible. In the event you do not know anyone who works on JBPHH please contact me at 808-449-3198 (or email) and I can make arrangements with the front Hickam gate and have a base pass awaiting your arrival.

2) What should I bring?

Limited supplies exist and will be handed out to those who arrive first, so if you own hand loppers or heavy duty long armed shears please bring them with you. Open soled shoes are not recommended; I advise bringing thick soled rubber boots (if you want to tackle mangrove in the water or hiking footwear for the drier areas). Work gloves, water bottles, long work pants/shirts, sunscreen, hat, and sunglasses are also advised.

3) Will there be water?

Bottled water will be available, but please bring a filled water bottle so that ample supplies exist throughout the day. Several igloo coolers will be pre-filled for your usage during the event.

4) What if I can't stay for the whole time period?

Any help you can offer is worth the trip down to the beach. There is no minimum requirement.

National Public Lands Day Site Directions

- 1) From H1, take the Hickam Air Force Base exit. After the Hickam gate, continue straight through onto O'Malley Boulevard.
- 2) Continue northwest on O'Malley until you hit the Atterbury Circle (circle at the center of Hickam Air Force Base).
- 3) Follow the circle until you see the Vickers Avenue turnoff; continue southwest and this road becomes Fort Kamehameha Road.
- 4) Take Fort Kamehameha Road (airfield is on your left) until it begins to veer to the right, which is Mamala Bay Drive.
- 5) Follow Mamala Bay Drive as it turns parallel to the shoreline. The first parking area is commonly referred to as "Battery Hawkins" and is near the Historic Fort Kamehameha Housing District. You will make a right hand turn onto Nelson Avenue into an area covered by kiawe trees (dirt road). Parking is scattered about in this beach recreation area and the worksite is to your left when you pull onto this road.
- 6) An overflow public parking option is available if this area becomes congested. Continue driving east along Mamamla Bay drive and before the boat harbor there is a large asphalt parking lot that runs along the shoreline. Park and walk west along the bike path (approximately .26 miles) until you see the special event sign to your left off of Nelson Avenue.