

GET THE DRIFT & BAG IT!

September 19, 2009

Start a Sea Change: A Day at the Beach Becomes a Year-Round Movement.

GET THE DRIFT & BAG IT! is Hawai'i's contribution to the International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) which started in 1986. In 2008, during the 23rd International Coastal Cleanup, trash was collected and the data recorded by the nearly 400,000 volunteers around the world who combed their local beaches and waterways, making it the largest volunteer effort of its kind. Volunteers removed nearly seven million (6.8 million) pounds of debris, from 6,485 sites in 104 countries and 42 U.S. states and the District of Columbia with a common mission of improving the health of the ocean.

"Our ocean is sick, and our actions have made it so. We simply cannot continue to put our trash in the ocean. The evidence turns up every day in dead and injured marine life, littered beaches that discourage tourists, and choked ocean ecosystems," said Vikki Spruill, president and CEO of Ocean Conservancy. "By changing behaviors and policies, individuals, companies, and governments can help improve the health of our ocean, the Earth's life support system." "Trash doesn't fall from the sky, it falls from our hands," continued Spruill. "Humans have created the problem of marine debris, and humans should step up and solve it."

Keeping our ocean free of trash is one of the easiest ways we can help improve the ocean's resilience as it tries to adapt to the harmful effects of climate change such as melting ice, rising sea levels, and changing ocean chemistry. From wildlife like endangered sea turtles and the Hawaiian monk seal to biologically rich ecosystems like coral reefs, life in the ocean will be healthier, more resilient and better able to adapt to climate change in the absence of debris-related impacts.

Ocean Conservancy's ICC engages volunteer organizations and individuals to remove trash and debris from the world's beaches and waterways; to identify the sources of debris, and to change the behaviors that cause marine debris in the first place. Visit www.oceanconservancy.org to download the 2008 report and to find out what you can do to make a difference including signing up for the 24th International Coastal Cleanup to be held around the world on September 19, 2009.

Coordinated on the Big Island by the County of Hawai'i Department of Parks and Recreation, Aquatics Division in conjunction with the Friends of Honolulu Parks & Recreation and the State Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM).

Please call 961-8695 to register yourself, group or organization. Trash bags, data collection cards and gloves can be picked up at the following locations:

HILO: Richardson Ocean Park, 2349 Kalaniana'ole St, 961-8695
KONA: Jack's Diving Locker, 75-5813 Ali'i Dr., Kailua-Kona, 329-7585
KOHALA: Kohala Divers, Kawaihae, 882-7774

Please complete form and FAX 961-8696 or MAIL to Terry Miura, Richardson Ocean Park, 2349 Kalaniana'ole St., Hilo Hawai'i 96720

PLEASE PRINT

Yes, We/I would like to participate in GET THE DRIFT & BAG IT! Saturday, September 19, 2009

Name of Group/Individual _____

Contact Person(s) _____

Day time Phone: _____ FAX: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Street/P.O. Box

City

Zip Code

Approximate Number of Volunteers _____

Preferred Clean-up Location _____

Additional Comments _____

Signature of Volunteer/group Leader _____

If under 18, Signature of Parent/ Guardian _____

Standardized data collection cards, trash bags and gloves will be provided for your clean-up. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call Terry at 961-8695, Mon-Fri, 8:00- 4:00 pm. MAHALO for your commitment to keep our beaches and oceans clean!