

Fact Sheet:

Illicit Discharges and Illegal Connections to Honolulu International Airport's Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (HNL's Small MS4)

Did You Know...

The primary purpose of the storm drains in HNL's Small MS4 is to carry rain water away from the airport to prevent flooding. The storm drains flow straight into the ocean without receiving any treatment. This water can contain a variety of pollution sources, including:



- Litter (opala)
- Oil, fuel, and other maintenance fluids
- Pesticide and fertilizers from landscaping
- Sediment from construction projects
- Bacteria from human and animal waste

HNL is committed to improving water quality and reducing the amount of pollutants that enter our waterways, but everyone's help is needed.

Follow Best Management Practices (BMPs) to keep pollutants from entering the storm drain, such as:

- Fix auto and aircraft leaks promptly
- Properly disposed of used motor oil and other wastes
- Don't top off when you fill up

- Clean up spills immediately using absorbents
- Put opala in a closed bin
- Never dump anything down a storm drain

HNL has outlined several BMPs to follow at the airport in the Storm Water Management Program Plan, which can be found at <http://www6.hawaii.gov/dot/airports/hnl/swm/index.htm>.

Acceptable Discharges

(per HNL's NPDES Permit No. HI S000005)

The rule of thumb is: "Only rain goes in the storm drain," but there are a few exceptions at HNL, such as:

- Landscaping irrigation
- Air conditioning condensate
- Discharges from fire fighting activities
- Exterior building washing (water only)

Helpful Definitions

Illicit Discharge: Any discharge to the MS4 that is not composed entirely of storm water, except those allowed by the NPDES Permit.

Illegal Connection: A physical connection to the MS4 that conveys illicit discharges into the storm drain system and/or is not authorized by the Department of Transportation, Airports Division.

Storm Water Runoff: Rainfall that flows over the land surface picking up pollutants along the way to the nearest storm drain in HNL's MS4.

Report Suspicious Connections or Dumping!

You can help stop illicit discharges by looking for the warning signs and reporting the problem to the Department of Transportation, Airports Division, Environmental Section at (808) 838-8002.

Warning Signs

Report Dry Weather Flow

If a storm drain has flow when it has not rained for at least 72 hours, or if it shows signs of intermittent flow (staining, odor), an illicit discharge or illegal dumping may be present. HNL's Environmental Health Specialists will conduct an investigation and determine the source of the dry weather flow so that it can be stopped.



Report Detergents



Detergents used for cleaning vehicles and aircraft become an illicit discharge when they enter the storm drain.

Soaps that contain phosphates promote algae growth when they reach the ocean, which robs the water of essential oxygen. Without oxygen, the fish cannot survive. Additionally, the algae can block light from penetrating into the water and limit the aquatic photosynthesis that coral depend on to survive. Even soaps that do not contain phosphate still bind to the tissue of fish and suffocate them.

Report Sewage

Sewage can pollute the ocean from septic tank overflow pipes, improperly disposed of lavatory waste from aircraft, or porta-potty waste. Sewage pollution is recognizable based on its distinct odor. There may also be black staining inside the drainage pipe and visible evidence of sanitary waste, such as toilet paper and opaque or gray water.



Report Spills

Any sheen on the ground or water surface is an indication of an illicit discharge of a petroleum product. Gas and oil enter the ocean by storm water runoff and illegal dumping. You can help by not topping off when you fill up your tank, keeping your vehicle or aircraft maintained, and properly recycling used motor oil.



In the ocean 1 gallon of oil can pollute 1 million gallons of seawater!