

HIGHWAY MANUAL FOR SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

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HDOT Project Manager: Chris Dacus

Prepared by
SWCA Environmental Consultants
201 Merchant Street, Suite 2310
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
808.548.7922
www.swca.com

Message from the Governor



For the last 50 years the Hawaii Department of Transportation's Highways Division has cared for a statewide highway system that stretches more than 2,400 miles on six main Islands.

In recent years, it has been discovered that roadways are major pathways for the introduction and spread of pests and diseases. Invasive species are harmful to human health, the economy and our precious natural environment with all its valuable resources, including water.

To counter this, HDOT's Highways Division is poised to launch an innovative and sustainable approach to highway landscape maintenance in the Islands. Among its goals is the training of workers, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and resources to appropriately respond to landscape challenges and to embrace sustainability in all their operations.

HDOT's Highways Division is trumpeting a new clarion call: "Be a good environmental steward." Guidance for this drive is based on this *Highway Manual for Sustainable Landscape Maintenance*, a blueprint for sustainable practices to be adopted by Highways Division employees, maintenance crews, and contractors.

Invasive species along roadway landscapes can increase maintenance costs by as much as an estimated \$4.2 million a year statewide. Implementation of these proactive measures could help reduce these costs by as much as 80 percent.

The manual and workshops are designed to encourage those who care for roadside vegetation to ask themselves questions, such as: Are our daily practices sustainable? Are we reducing waste and conserving resources? Are we lessening negative impacts on our environment?

This bold initiative by HDOT's Highways Division will encourage increased responsibility and enhanced stewardship of our unique environment. We can look forward to a roadside landscape that enriches the Hawaiian sense of place and nurtures a healthier Hawaii.

The Honorable Neil Abercrombie
Governor, State of Hawaii

Foreword

The Hawaii Department of Transportation, Highways Division, is proud to present the *Highway Manual for Sustainable Landscape Maintenance*. With funding assistance from the Federal Highways Administration, HDOT has crafted a practical guide for managers, ground crews, contractors and inspectors in an effort to institute positive changes to roadside vegetation maintenance. Our highway system will be maintained in a more sustainable manner in all aspects of operation by better equipped environmental caretakers instilled with the understanding and responsibility of good land stewardship. This manual serves as the primary instructional guide for Island workshops at which specialists provide hands-on training in all aspects of maintaining and improving management of roadside landscapes, including the prevention and control of invasive species. The *Highway Manual for Sustainable Landscape Maintenance* provides the foundation for a new wave of environmental care in Hawaii.



Glenn M. Okimoto
Director, Hawaii Department of Transportation

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