

# ILLICIT DISCHARGE & ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS

Daniel K. Inouye International Airport

Environmental Hotline: 808-838-8002 or  
[dot.air.environmental@hawaii.gov](mailto:dot.air.environmental@hawaii.gov)

FACT  
SHEET



Storm drains in HNL's small MS4 are designed to carry rain water away from the airport to prevent flooding. Most storm drains flow directly into the ocean without receiving any treatment. Storm water can carry many types of pollutants, including:

- Litter
- Oil, fuel, and other maintenance fluids
- Pesticides & fertilizers
- Sediment
- Bacteria (animal and human waste)

HNL is committed to improving water quality and reducing the amount of pollutants that enter our waterways. Follow Best Management Practices (BMPs) to keep pollutants from entering the storm drain:

- Repair auto and aircraft leaks.
- Properly dispose of used motor oil and other wastes.
- No topping off when filling up fuel.
- Properly dispose trash in closed bins.
- Never dump anything down the storm drain.
- Clean up spills immediately using absorbents.



## 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 DOTA.



**Storm Water Runoff** – Rainfall that flows over the land surface on the way to the nearest storm drain in HNL's MS4.



# REPORT SUSPICIOUS CONNECTIONS OR DUMPING

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## WARNING SIGNS

### SPILLS

Any sheen on the ground or water surface may be an indication of an illicit discharge of a petroleum product. Gas and oil enter the ocean by storm water runoff and illegal dumping. How can you help?

- Don't top off your tank.
- Keep your vehicle or aircraft maintained.
- Properly recycle used motor oil.
- Utilize drip pans and secondary containment.



### DETERGENTS

Detergents used for cleaning vehicles and aircraft become an illicit discharge when they enter the storm drain. Soaps containing phosphates can promote excess algae to grow. Large algae blooms can block light from penetrating through the water's surface and hinder photosynthesis for coral species. When algae die, the bacterial breakdown uses up dissolved oxygen in the water, depriving and even suffocating fish and other marine life.



### SEWAGE

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



### DRY WEATHER FLOW

If you can observe a discharge 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.

