Kaimuki High School
Water Pollution Prevention

When rain falls, it has nowhere else to flow but into the storm drains. The rain water picks up pollutants on the way as it makes its way into the drains. The storm drains are not connected to the wastewater treatment plant, so the polluted water flows directly into our streams and ocean.

Pollutants include hazardous waste, petroleum products, detergents, pesticides, chemical fertllizer, sewage sludge, animal waste, soil erosion and soil, accumulation of sediments, and construction waste.

What We Should Do:

Use water wisely. If we conserve water, the amount of wastewater needed to treat and dispose of the water will be reduced. Overwatering can also carry pollutants into the storm drain system.

Use and dispose of hazardous substances properly. Read product labels and choose the least toxic alternative. Things such as motor oil, paints, solvents and other chemical should not be poured on the ground because it can be washed away down storm drains and pollute our streams and ocean. Motor oil can be recycled at oil changing locations and other chemicals should be bought at the amount needed. Excess pesticides need special handling and must be disposed of as hazardous waste.

Use Fertilizer and pesticides sparingly. Follow the instructions on the labels and use only the amount needed. Do not use them when it is raining, as the substance can be carried into storm drains and nearby streams. Choose the least toxic alternative such as compost for fertilizer. Use repellant plants, baited traps, or mosquito nets instead of bug spray.

Landscape land to prevent erosion. Cover bare ground and dirt with grass, trees, or plants to hold the soil. Dirt and bare ground should be covered around storm drains and streams. Rain will turn bare dirt into mud which can flow into the water and cause pollution.

Improve housekeeping. Fix water leaks on campus and toilet flappers when needed. Put all litter into trash cans and recyclables into one of the recycle bins found on campus.

Implement annual campus clean-up event. Have several campus cleanups throughout the school year and participate in them, making sure to clean areas next to the stream and bridge.

Study storm water management. Teachers can help by teaching students the problems with illicit discharges to storm drains and streams. Providing steps to reduce pollution in storm water drains can also be useful. Students can do their own research about what pollution does to our waters and humans.

Educate others. Inform others about protecting our waters through a class or individual project.

Participate in campus clean-up events. Pick up trash with your school to make it more fun, invite your friends so you all can do it together.

Learn about where the water goes. Research where our water from the school goes and what we can do to protect it from pollution.