

News & Events

NEWS

Mahalo to Maui Kai for being the first condominium to take the Ocean-Friendly Property Pledge!

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There are many ways to be "ocean-friendly," and when it comes to managing pollution from land – primarily nutrients, sediments, and chemicals – it really does matter how we as West Maui residents, business owners, and employees manage our lawns, landscapes, and the built environment around us. Especially since so many storm drains in the area lead directly to the ocean. The West Maui Kumuwai campaign is currently enlisting condominium properties in the Honokowai region to take a voluntary **Ocean-Friendly Property Pledge**, part of a new recognition program that highlights best practices and showcases those who have already implemented them or can commit to do so with support from the campaign and its partners within the West Maui Ridge to Reef Initiative.

In early June, the Maui Kai condominium became the first property to sign on, with General Manager Michael Burr completing the simple checklist and hosting West Maui Ridge to Reef Watershed and Coastal Management Coordinator Tova Callender and West Maui Kumuwai Campaign Manager Liz Foote for an informal property assessment. They observed a number of features that are considered ocean-friendly practices, such as the use of rocks within the landscaping to reduce the need for water as well as prevent erosion; there was virtually no bare soil visible on the property. Also, the property's downspouts all direct into vegetated areas, which further reduces runoff. Instead of wash-down areas within the parking lot, Maui Kai uses sinks connected to the sanitary sewer system, and ensures pool water is disposed of into the sanitary sewer as well. The Maui Kai is fortunate in that it doesn't have significant issues with its drainage, nor does it have a storm drain on the property; the design of the property and the best practices it follows helps ensure drainage is manageable. Furthermore, to assist with infiltration of runoff water, the property has plans to install curb cuts within its parking lot, and semipermeable pavers will ultimately be used when a sidewalk is replaced in the near future. "It's just smart," noted Callender, after the meeting and viewing the property. She continued, "Maui Kai is managing their current situation well and minimizing runoff, but they are also thinking ahead to plan new modifications to the property that will make more of a difference. It's great to see the level of awareness and motivation, and how the property is taking steps to consider their location and context so close to the ocean."

Properties interested in the program can contact West Maui Kumuwai, and will have the opportunity to receive one-on-one guidance on July 1st, when Tova Callender and Liz Foote plan to be in the Honokowai area and will be available to assist properties in going through the checklist to identify at least ten (of twenty total) best practices to which they can commit, in order to join the program (other dates are also available for consultation by appointment). Liz Foote noted, "we're excited about piloting this new checklist, and would love to provide personal assistance to the properties in the area to help them sign on. It's designed to be very attainable, and our goal is to document and highlight many of the practices already in place, in hopes of sharing the methods and propagating them throughout the region and beyond. We're also able to provide support and guidance for properties looking to implement new strategies for managing their storm water runoff, and we can share tools, resources, and other forms of assistance to help them take meaningful steps toward innovative sustainability initiatives."

Furthermore, properties that take the pledge by July 18th will be included in a special Ocean-Friendly Business recognition ceremony and media event as part of the Ridge to Reef Rendezvous, the annual community stewardship event held at Kahakili Beach Park on Saturday July 23rd. To view and download the Ocean-Friendly Property Pledge, please visit West Maui Kumuwai's website at www.WestMauiKumuwai.org. For more information on the West Maui Kumuwai campaign and the program, please email WestMauiKumuwai@gmail.com or call Campaign Manager Liz Foote at (808) 283-1631. There is also a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WestMauiKumuwai.

Below are some images from the Maui Kai condominium property; for more, [please see this post detailing other observations of ocean-friendly practices spotted at other properties in the area.](#)



General Manager of Maui Kai Michael Burr, with West Maui Kumuwai's Ocean-Friendly Property Pledge.



A visually-pleasing landscaping feature at Maui Kai that uses very little water.



An area where semipermeable pavers may be used during a future renovation at Maui Kai



An area where semipermeable pavers may be used during a future renovation at Maui Kai



Maui Kai's community garden, watered with drip irrigation



Maui Kai stores its chemicals in a contained area.



Downspouts from Maui Kai all direct into vegetated areas, ensuring the water is used for plants and does not end up as runoff.



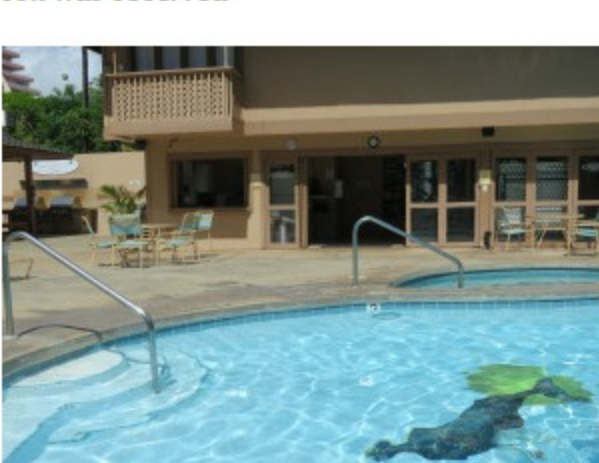
A closed dumpster on Maui Kai's property, which ensures that materials from spills won't end up included in runoff in the event of rain.



Drip irrigation at Maui Kai that reduces water usage, and rocks used to cover bare soil and reduce runoff.



A landscaping feature at Maui Kai; no exposed soil was observed



Maui Kai disposes of its pool water using the sanitary sewer system



Download the Property Pledge here: <http://westmauikumuwai.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Kumuwai-Property-Pledge.pdf>

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