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Ewa Beach Residents Promote Respect of Aina, Fight Dumping Culture

Ewa Beach residents say that they have had enough of people dumping trash on their beach, and that this Earth Day, they are going to do something about it.

“There is a new culture brewing here that promotes a complete disrespect for the A’ina. Some say that the drug dealers and the addicts are bringing this in,” said Ewa Beach resident Kymberly Pine, Chair of the Weed and Seed Neighborhood Restoration Project and coordinator of the April 17th beach clean-up at Oneula Beach Park.

“King Kamehameha would cry if he saw what people are throwing on our beach—beer bottles, fast food bags, cans, tires, shopping carts.”

Entitled “Get Healthy Ewa Beach,” residents of all ages will gather for the beach clean-up at Oneula Beach Park from 8 a.m. to noon. Long time Hawaiian residents, Uncle Henry Chang Wo and Bill Kumia of the Ewa Beach Limu Project will be on hand to educate participants on the negative effects this dumping has had on the ocean, the fish and the limu. They will also promote old concepts of “asking permission and

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taking only what you need from the ocean.” Information on service learning and protecting endangered species such as turtles and monk seals will also be passed out.

Pine said the idea begun as a simple beach clean-up for Earth Day and then as she recruited more and more residents for the event, a common theme was repeated, “After we clean, people are just going to dump again.”

The clean-up committee decided that more needed to be done to educate the public about the effects of dumping trash on the beach. The most important group of they wanted to educate was the Ewa Beach youth.

“If we can help to instill these attitudes early in their lives, the more likely they will take care of the environment throughout their lives,” said Pine.

Weed and Seed teamed up with Youth Services Hawaii, who help to provide pro-environmental services learning programs to Ewa Beach schools. They hope the event will serve as a kick-off to a year-long awareness program in the community.

Weed and Seed organizers are looking for at least 400 adults and youth to participate in the event. The Boys and Girls Club of Ewa Beach and Campbell High School have committed youth teams to participate.

Mary Jay, a resident who has been surfing Ewa Beach waters for almost 30 years, said that residents have been upset by the gradual change of their beach.

“The ocean is such a beautiful resource and it has made many of us really sad to see it get so trashed,” Jay said.

Jay’s neighbors, Kai Enjada, 11, of Poakea Elementary and fellow classmate, Eric

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Patterson, 10, who also surf along Ewa Beach, say they want other kids to come out to help.

“We want people to keep the beach clean so the fish don’t die,” said Patterson.

“Yeah, we want to make the beach look nice so we can surf and so the monk seals don’t die too,” added Enjada.

To participate or for more information call Kymberly Pine, 689-1713.

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