

HONOLULU AREA UNIFIED COMMAND

U.S. COAST GUARD • STATE OF HAWAII • TESORO HAWAII

Date: September 13, 1998

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Contact: Oil Spill Response Center
Joint Information Center
(808) 842-5058

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release Number: 2

Barking Sands and Polihale Beach Clean Up Demobilized

(Honolulu, Hawaii) The following is an update on the single point mooring spill clean up efforts:

- Clean up has stopped on two of the three beaches that had small tar balls wash ashore on Kauai yesterday although monitoring may be conducted, as appropriate. The U.S. Coast Guard, State of Hawaii and Tesoro Hawaii are continuing their joint oil spill clean up efforts on Kauai and responded to reports of tar balls at Nukoli'i Beach, Barking Sands and Polihale Beach. Beach surveys showed little, if any oil at Barking Sands and Polihale, and by the end of the day, the clean up at those beaches was completed however beaches will continue to be monitored. Tar balls were also found at Fuji Beach and clean up at that beach is underway. Clean up efforts at Nukoli'i Beach are continuing and proceeding smoothly.
- The State Department of Health has closed Fuji Beach and Nukoli'i Beach due to the tar balls in the area and to allow the clean up to continue.
- According to the State Department of Health, the tar balls pose no immediate danger to human health. If anyone experienced skin contact with a tar ball they should use hand cleaners, such as Lava, Citrikleen, or the type of soap used by mechanics, to remove the tar. They should not use a solvent to remove the tar.

(more)

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Barking Sands and Polihale Beach Clean Up Completed- Release #2

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- More than 150 people from the U.S. Coast Guard, Tesoro Hawaii, the State of Hawaii and various oil spill response contractors are now participating in the clean up efforts at the Oil Spill Response Center in Honolulu and throughout Kauai.

- Tesoro Hawaii is working with the U.S. Coast Guard, Clean Islands Council and the Marine Spill Response Corporation, two oil spill response cooperatives, in the clean up efforts.

- Oil spill response teams are continuing ongoing survey work of all Kauai beaches to determine if more tar balls may have washed ashore.

- Two additional oiled birds were found and captured yesterday. The birds were sent to the treatment and rehabilitation center at the state Division of Forestry and Wildlife's Maui veterinary services office. A total of 22 oiled birds have been found. The birds include red-footed boobies, a brown booby and a petrel. Ten of the birds have died and the remaining birds are being treated. In addition to the Maui treatment and rehabilitation center, birds are being cared for and treated at Sea Life Park and at a facility established by the state Department of Land and Natural Resources on Kauai to provide initial care for the birds. Tesoro Hawaii and the Clean Islands Council have provided logistical support and equipment for the Maui facility. The International Bird Rescue Research Center is providing expertise and assistance.

- The Hawaii Forestry and Wildlife's Maui Veterinary Services Offices (MVSO), which is conducting the rehabilitation activities for birds on Maui, are seeking volunteers to assist with the care of the birds from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Also, donations of bath towels for the bird cages and food for the volunteers would be appreciated. Individuals, who are at least 18 years old, interested in volunteering should contact Dr. Greg Massey with the MVSO at (808) 572-3502. The MVSO is located at 2600 Piihola Road in Makawao.

If Kauai residents see oiled birds, they may call the Hawaii Spill Response Center at (808) 847-8718.

After hours, residents may call the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office at (808) 927-0830.

(more)

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A claims number has been established by Tesoro Hawaii. The phone number is (808) 532-9425 on Oahu. Neighbor Islands can call 1-800-900-3717 to reach Brandvold & Associates.

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September 14, 1998

Dear Guest,

The beach fronting our hotel has been temporarily closed by the US Coast Guard and State of Hawaii due to tar balls that have been washing up on shore.

The US Coast Guard, State of Hawaii and Tesoro Hawaii are continuing their joint oil spill clean up efforts on Kaua'i with immediate response to reports of tar balls at Nukoli'i Beach, Barking Sands and Polihale Beach. Beach surveys showed little, if any oil at Barking Sands and Polihale, and by the end of the day, clean up of those beaches will be completed. However, beaches will continue to be monitored.

We can recommend other beach alternatives from 11:00am until 4:00pm each day. We will offer a shuttle to and from Kalapaki Beach. We are working with the appropriate agencies to resolve this situation as soon as possible.

All of our pools and outlets will be open for your enjoyment. Arrangements can be made for alternate beach transportation if necessary.

Mahalo for your cooperation,

Jay Bufaro
General Manager
JE:mk



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NEWS Release

The Health State

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September 15, 1998

DOI-OD #98-82

Public urged to report effects of recent oil spill

The state Department of Health is asking the public not to dispose of any wildlife or other natural resource that appears to have been affected by the recent oil spill involving Tesoro Hawaii.

The Department of Health is the lead agency in assessing the damages caused by the spill and will need to know as much as possible about what was affected in order to properly determine the costs of correcting the damages.

"We have been getting reports from Kaua'i that some people are burying birds that have been killed by the spill," says Deputy Director of Environmental Health Bruce Anderson. "Rather than bury the birds, we are urging people to report them to command centers that have been set up on Kaua'i and O'ahu."

The Department of Health is working with the state Department of Land Natural Resources, the federal Department of the Interior and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in developing the natural resource damage assessment.

"All of these agencies are trustees of the environment and as such are responsible for seeing that any harm to the environment is properly recorded and that steps are taken to fix the damages," explains Anderson.

If anyone finds wildlife, including birds or fish, that appear to have been affected by the oil spill they are asked to call 243-1955 (ext 4051 or 4049) on Kaua'i or 847-3718 on O'ahu.

Benjamin J. Cayetano, Governor



Lawrence M. Muike, Director of Health