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# STREAM MAINTENANCE

## DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY MAINTENANCE

It’s Our Home, Our Responsibility.

Submitted by the Department of Facility Maintenance for Informational Briefing No. 2
Committee on Energy, Environment & Sustainability | April 28, 2026

DEPT. COM. 287(26) · EES

# DISCUSSION OVERVIEW




- The Clean Stream Program
- The City’s Role
- Types of Stream Maintenance
- Reporting Concerns
- Challenges



# THE CLEAN STREAM PROGRAM

Stream owners have the responsibility to ensure that streams are free from all debris that could block a clear waterway.

Clean streams can prevent severe damage from flooding that is caused when debris flows downstream and forms a blockage in narrow parts of the stream or under a bridge.

Homeowners can be held financially liable if improper stream management on their property causes flooding upstream or downstream that damages their neighbor's property.

# HELPFUL TIPS FOR HOMEOWNERS

- Check your property deed to determine if you are a stream owner. Misplaced your deed? A copy of your deed can be obtained from the State Department of Land and Natural Resources Bureau of Conveyances located at 1151 Punchbowl St., Room 123.
- Collect trash from the stream and stream bank area. Dispose of the trash with your refuse.
- Haul out large debris and bulky items.
- Cut and remove branches and vegetation that obstruct the stream area, and dispose of them properly.
- Remove blockages and sediment build-up that impede stream flow.

# IT'S THE LAW TO MAINTAIN YOUR STREAM

- **Responsibility - ROH Sec. 40 - 2.3**
  The owner of the stream has the duty to maintain, dredge, and clear such stream so that the natural flow of water runs unimpaired.

- **Right of Entry and Inspection - ROH Sec. 40 - 2.4**
  Authorized City employees may enter the property to ensure the stream is maintained as required.

- **City Authorized to Clear and Maintain - ROH Sec. 40 - 2.6**
  Upon failure, neglect or refusal of the owner, the City is authorized to maintain and clear the stream.

- **Charge to Owner - ROH Sec. 40 - 2.7**
  When City has performed the maintenance and clearing of a stream, the owner shall be billed therefore by mail. Failure to pay the bill will result in a lien.

- **Civil Fines - ROH Sec. 40 - 2.11**
  Persons violating the provisions of the Stream Maintenance Ordinance shall have committed a civil violation and shall be liable for a civil fine not to exceed $500.00 per day

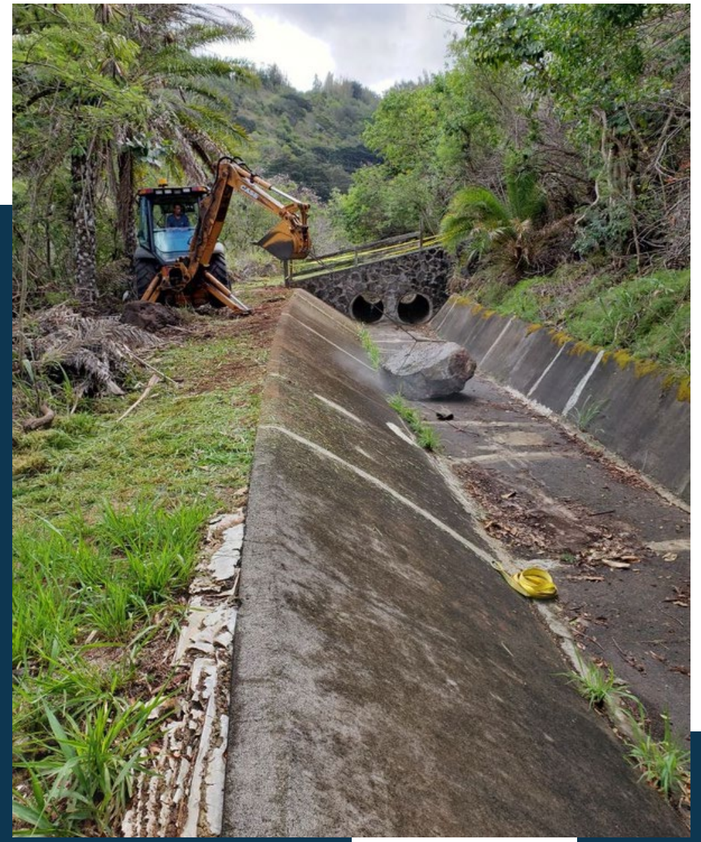
# CITY'S RESPONSIBILITY

The Department of Facility Maintenance maintains the streams that are under the jurisdiction of the City and County of Honolulu.









# TYPES OF STREAM MAINTENANCE

- U.S. Army Permitted
  - -Stream Maintenance
  - - Stream Mouth Opening
- Non-Permitted (Permit Not Required)
  - -Stream Maintenance
  - -Stream Mouth Opening
- Department of Emergency Management Emergency -Authorized
  - -Stream Debris Removal
  - -Stream Mouth Opening




## Key Map




## Legend

- Stream Mouth Dredge Opening Site (POH-2018-00185)
- Stream Mouth Breach Opening Site (POH-2017-00198)
- Stream Maintenance Site (POH-2017-00198)
- Stream/Channel
- DFM District

## Notes

1. Base Map Source: Esri World Imagery
2. Map Projection: NAD83 HARN StatePlane Hawaii 3.
3. Stream/Channel: National Hydrography Dataset features for Hawaii as of December, 2012.

N

0 2 4 6 8 Miles

**Figure 7.1**
**DFM Oahu Districts**
**Site Location Map**
**City and County of Honolulu**
**DFM Stream Mantenance**

**A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit for stream maintenance and stream mouth openings is required when heavy equipment or machinery is used.**



Example of Permitted Stream Mouth Opening at ʻUlehawa in Nānākuli.



Example of Permitted Stream Maintenance at Hahaione Stream

**Non -permitted stream maintenance is conducted when the work can be performed manually and does not require the use of heavy equipment.**

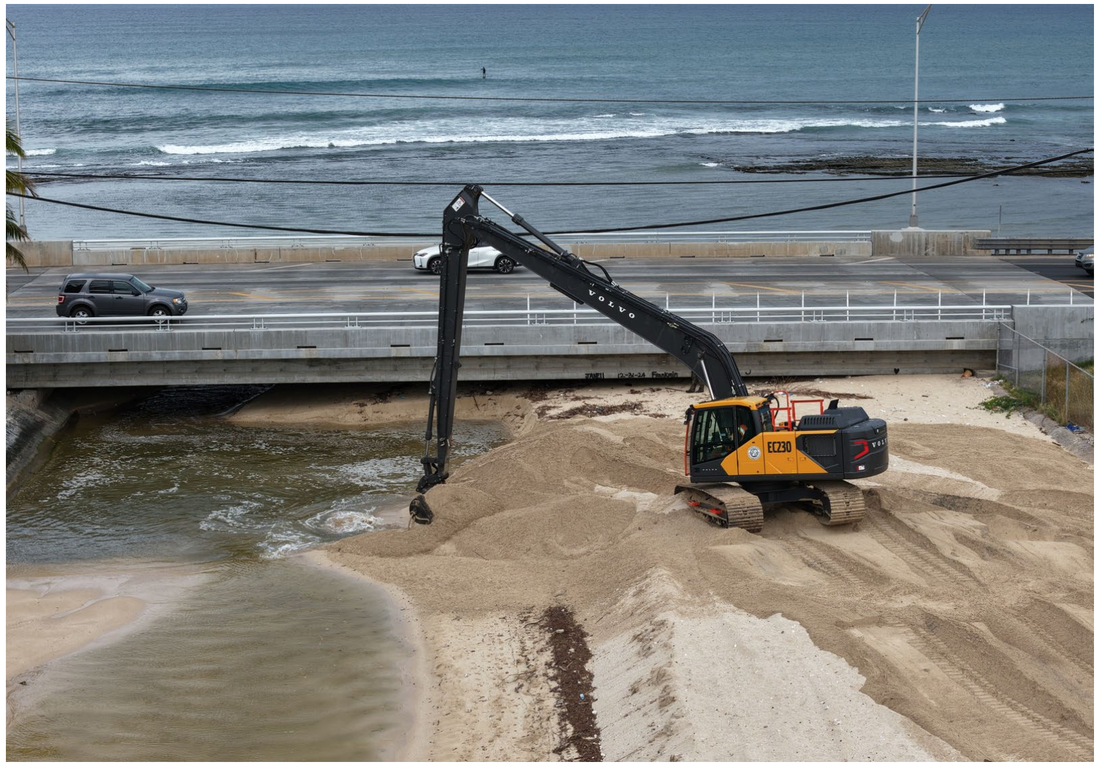


Example of Non -Permitted Stream Maintenance at Ho‘omaemae Ditch in Pearl City



Example of Non-Permitted Stream Mouth Opening at the ‘Ewa Drainage Channel.

DEM-Emergency -Authorized debris clearing and stream mouth openings are conducted when adverse or imminent weather conditions are anticipated, and when DFM's Drainage Engineer determines that such actions are necessary to help prevent potential flooding.




Example of DEM-Emergency-Authorized Stream Debris Removal in Māʻili.




Example of DEM-Emergency-Authorized Stream Mouth Opening at ʻUlehawa in Nānākuli.

# DEM-EMERGENCY-AUTHORIZED ACTIONS AHEAD OF ADVERSE WEATHER

- Predicted adverse/imminent weather approaching.
- Division of Road Maintenance (DRM) staff inspects City-maintained stream mouths and takes photos. Staff reports to Drainage Engineer of stream mouth conditions.
- If stream mouths are obstructed with sand, Drainage Engineer seeks DEM-Emergency-Authorization to redirect sand prior to adverse/imminent weather to prevent potential flooding.
- The Drainage Engineer notifies the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Hawai‘i Department of Health Clean Water Branch of DRM’s intent to remove debris and instructs DRM yards to carry out the work.

# REPORTING STREAM CONCERNS OR POTENTIAL FLOOD PROBLEM

- Submit a request using the HNL311 application with location and photo.
- Call Clean Stream Hotline at (808) 768-7890

# STREAM MAINTENANCE CHALLENGES

- Limited equipment access.
- Limited equipment and operator resources.
- Limited Manpower resources.
- Equipment downtime due to equipment breakdown and acquisition of parts.

# THANK YOU

