



## REEF ETIQUETTE

- When snorkelling or diving you should not touch, walk on, stand or break live corals. Corals are living animals that provide food and shelter to other reef animals.
- Do not remove anything from the reef- everything has a purpose. Taking live coral or rock with attached marine life is illegal in Hawai'i.
- Fish feeding upsets the natural balance on the reef- introduced food can be harmful to fish. Fish feeding is also illegal.
- Try and observe sea turtles from a distance of at least 20 feet, both on the shore and in the water.
- Dispose of your trash properly- plastics in the water can damage and kill marine life.



Mahalo for helping to take care of our marine environment.

Our efforts today will help future generations and our planet tomorrow.



Photograph: Doug Sell

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The Kahalu`u Bay Project is managed by the Kohala Center with sponsorships by HTA, NOAA, DLNR, County Parks & Recreation, Kamehameha Investment Corp, Outrigger Keauhou Beach Resort, University of Hawai'i Sea Grant, West Hawai'i Girl Scouts, and many businesses and individuals within our communities.



## REEFTEACH KAHALU 'U BAY

Help Protect our Marine Environment Today!



# What is ReefTeach?

ReefTeach is a project based at Kahalu'u Bay, Kona that aims to educate visitors on how to avoid damaging corals and take care of our turtles and our reef animals.

Kahalu'u Bay is a very popular snorkel site due to its ease of access and high coral and fish diversity. It experiences over 400,000 users a year - just during peak daylight hours. 40% of these visitors are from the cruise lines and 60% are from the airlines, as well as a small number of locals.

Trained ReefTeachers educate visitors about what corals are, their significance to the reef, coral reef ecology, and the different types of fish and invertebrates in Hawai'i.

In particular ReefTeachers emphasize how swimmers should avoid touching or standing on coral, removing anything from the reef, feeding the fish or harassing the turtles that feed and bask in the Bay.

Data collected by ReefTeach studies show that 80% of those visitors not taught by ReefTeachers will step and stand on coral, some for as long as 300 seconds.

Of those who have been taught by ReefTeachers, only 9% will step on live coral.



# VOLUNTEER NOW!



## WE NEED YOUR KOKUA!

You can volunteer as an individual, or through your business or organization. All training is done by an experienced marine scientist.

ReefTeach Volunteers use picture boards, books and mobile reference folders to teach visitors about coral, reef fish, turtles and other reef organisms, and how to reduce their impact on them whilst enjoying the reef.

ReefTeachers also collect in-water data to show that visitors educated about the reef are less likely to impact coral.



Reef Teaching is effective and fun!



# Adopt a Day at Kahalu'u Bay

Your business or organization can make a difference by providing ReefTeachers for one day a week, one day a month, or one day a year to look after Kahalu'u Bay.

Our marine science instructor will teach your staff and a Certificate of Participation will be awarded to your business or organization. Training can be carried out at your location or ours.



# Train the Trainer Program

Your business or organization can be trained about Hawai'i's coral reef system and appropriate reef etiquette in order to share this information with your customers.

Our marine science instructor will teach your staff and a Certificate of Completion will be awarded to your business or organization. Training can be carried out at your location or ours.