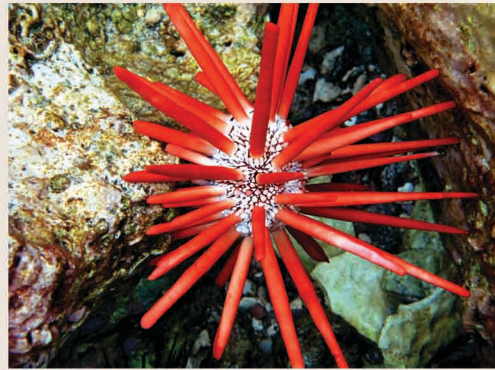


Reef Etiquette Guidelines

How can you be a responsible reef visitor?

The following are guidelines to make sure you enjoy the beauty of Hawai'i's reefs without damaging them for future generations. Mahalo for reading this information and passing on the message!

- 🌟 When snorkeling 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.
- 🌟 Try not to kick up sand or sediment when in the water- it blocks sunlight that is essential to the reef.
- 👉 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.
- 🐟 Hawaiian reef fish play a vital role to the health of the reef because they feed on algae. Fish feeding upsets the natural balance on the reef- introduced food can be harmful to fish and it is also illegal. Reef fish such as the butterflyfish and parrotfish naturally eat coral and algae.
- 🌟 If you are using sunscreen, use an environmentally friendly brand and put it on at least 15 minutes before you enter the water.
- 🌟 Try and observe sea turtles on the shore from a distance of at least 10 feet and do not disturb resting turtles on the ocean floor, under ledges or on rocks. When swimming give turtles space and do not touch them.
- 👉 Report any turtle mistreatment to DOCARE (808) 974 6208. If you see a sick, injured or dead sea turtle stranded on land, call (808) 881 4200.
- 🐟 Dispose of your trash properly! Plastics in the water can harm and even kill marine life.



10 Things You Can Do!

1. Support local conservation organizations and programs. Find out more about and volunteer for the ReefTeach Project in Kahalu'u Bay. See www.kohalacenter.org/kahaluubay/about.html for more information.
2. Support reef-friendly businesses and encourage businesses to support reef management and education activities.
3. Learn more about our reefs so you can help others understand the value of reefs in Hawai'i. Spread the word!
4. Report dumping, poaching or other illegal activities.
5. Never anchor directly onto reefs - anchor in sand or on moorings.
6. Take steps to decrease overfishing - support sustainable fishing practices.
7. Support legislation to protect Hawai'i's reefs; inform yourself about existing laws.
8. Help monitor your local marine environment and prevent marine water pollution - start with your own sewage and runoff.
9. Support the creation and maintenance of marine parks and reserves.
10. Promote responsible development - coastal overdevelopment is one of the ocean's largest threats.