

Stormwater debris entering the drain system.
PHOTO COURTESY DEPT. OF FACILITY MAINTENANCE –
STORM WATER QUALITY BRANCH



DPP: Stop Residential Runoff

New rules urge builders to develop a sediment control plan to curb damage from stormwater

BY BRETT ALEXANDER-ESTES

The city's Department of Planning and Permitting is calling on Island builders to implement the DPP's new runoff rules at residential and other smaller jobsites.

"We need their help," says Russell Leong, civil engineer with the city's Department of Facility Management-Storm Water Quality Branch. "We're relying on them to help us to try to contain stormwater instead of letting it enter streams and oceans."

The DPP's 2017 "Rules Relating to Water Quality" requires builders on smaller jobsites to implement new rules and best management practices (BMPs). The new rules also mandate inspections, often by a third party and distinct from customary visits by the building inspector.

"These rules were developed in response to an inspection done by the EPA," Leong says.

The EPA found that large developments were keeping runoff from polluting



Russell Leong

Hawaii's waters, Leong says, but "we needed to improve upon the smaller sites."

Leong says the DPP's new Water Quality construction project classification system

(1a, 1b, 1c), BMPs, Erosion & Sediment Control Plans (ESCPs) and tighter inspections aren't unduly complicated.

"We're asking that individual, small home

Builders can review the new rules online at www.honolulu.gov/dfmswq/calendar/875-site-dfm-swq-cat/21038-rules-relating-to-storm-drainage-standards.html



Large graded areas during a downpour.
PHOTO COURTESY RUSSELL LEONG

builders develop a simple erosion sediment control plan (ESCP). The owner can do it, or he can designate a person to do it for him. And it may be just a simple one-page sheet showing his house and what he intends (as) best management practices to contain brown stormwater from exiting his property and going into the storm drain system."

A site's size and terrain, Leong says, determines the project's ESCP and its inspection schedule.

"Depending on the environmental risk of the site, like its location, proximity to the ocean, the slope of the site, the site may need to be inspected more frequently. On a weekly basis if it's a benign site with little environmental risk, that may go to a monthly basis for a smaller project."

The DPP recently presented seminars on the new "Rules Relating to Water Quality" at BIA-Hawaii and GCA of Hawaii. 🏠

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