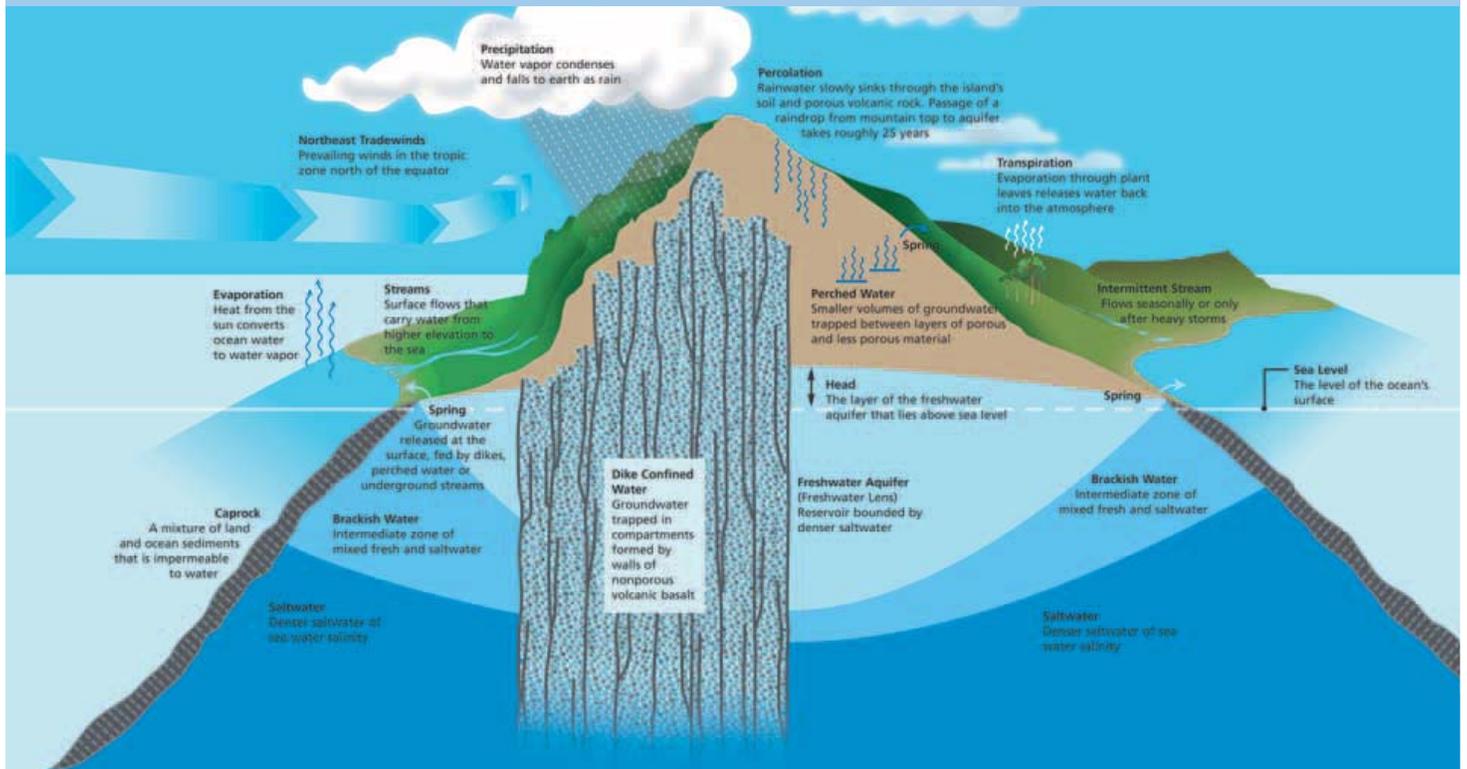


The Storm Water Issue

To fully understand the storm water pollution issue, it is helpful to step back and review the water cycle, also known as the hydrologic cycle. The water cycle is simply the constant movement of water from the sky to the ground and back again. As part of that cycle, when rain falls to the ground, that water takes several paths.

Source: "Water For Life" brochure, Honolulu Board of Water Supply, URL: <http://www.hbws.org>



The two main parts of the storm water problem are: 1) volume and velocity of surface water runoff; and, 2) the pollutants in runoff. Roads, parking lots, and compacted soils are impervious surfaces that cannot soak up water and change the watercycle by increasing surface water runoff and reducing groundwater recharge.

Unlike grassy areas that offer more resistance, water travels faster over a paved area. During heavy rains, this faster runoff sends more water in a short time to receiving waters, such as streams, increasing flooding, channel erosion and widening, bank cutting, sedimentation and general habitat loss. This runoff also picks up pollutants dumped or dropped on the ground.

For simple tips on storm water pollution prevention, go to www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com. More on water conservation at www.hbws.org.



Runoff to road and storm drain



Erosion



Trash