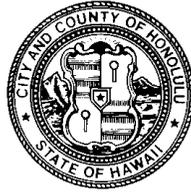


DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

1000 ULUOHIA STREET, SUITE 212
KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707

PHONE: (808) 768-3486 • FAX: (808) 768-3289 • <http://www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com>

KIRK CALDWELL
Mayor



LORI M.K. KAHIKINA, P.E.
Director

TIMOTHY A. HOUGHTON
Deputy Director

ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.
2nd Deputy Director

Storm Drain Connections to the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

Background Information

The Clean Water Act was established in 1972 with the goal to make US waters clean enough to be swimmable and fishable. To do this, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program.

Since the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), or drainage system, discharges directly to streams and the ocean, the City is required to obtain an NPDES permit from the State Department of Health. This permit requires the City to reduce the amount of pollutants discharged from the City's MS4 in order to meet the water quality standards of the State of Hawaii to the maximum extent practicable.

The City's MS4 is the system for the conveyance of storm water, and includes roads and streets with drainage systems, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, and storm drains owned by the City.

Components of the City's permit include investigating complaints of pollutant discharges, pursuing enforcement action against dischargers, and requiring licenses for all private storm drain connections to the City's MS4.

What is the law saying?

The City's MS4 was designed to convey storm water, not trash or pollutants. All connections from non-municipal and private drainage systems to a City drainage facility must have a storm drain connection license. This license is issued to the property owner (see 'Frequently Asked Questions' on the back of this page for definition). The property owner is responsible for the care and maintenance of the private drainage system and should prevent pollutants from entering the City's drainage system to the maximum extent practicable.

Any private storm drain system that is connected to the City's MS4 without a license issued to the property owner is considered to be an illegal storm drain connection.



All storm drain connections to the City's drainage system must have a license.

The Ordinance

The Revised Ordinances of Honolulu (ROH), Section 14-12.12 describes the license and defines a private storm drainage connection as:

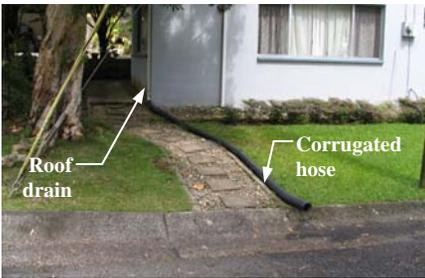
"A) Private Storm Drain Connection Licenses

- (1) All connections from non-municipal and private drainage systems to the city-owned separate storm sewer system shall require a storm drain connection license issued by the chief engineer.
- (8) Where a private storm drain connection is common to one or more parcels and is owned by more than one property owner, each property owner is required to have a private drain connection license and be responsible for the maintenance of the common private drainage system.

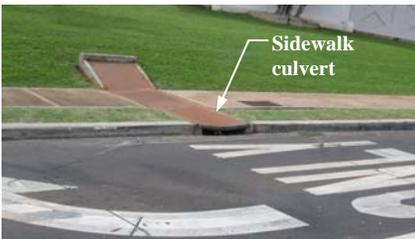
D) Private Storm Drain Connections

- (1) Any private storm drain system that is connected to the city-owned separate storm sewer system without a license issued to the property owner of record shall be considered an illegal storm drain connection.
- (3) Whenever a property owner is cited for an illegal private storm drain connection to the city-owned separate storm sewer system, the property owner shall be given 90 days after the date of the citation to obtain a connection license. The city will issue a connection license to the property owner without penalty within the 90-day period provided, however, no nonstorm water is being discharged into the city-owned separate storm sewer system. After the 90-day period, the property owner shall be in violation of the provisions of Article 12 of this chapter."

Examples of Connections



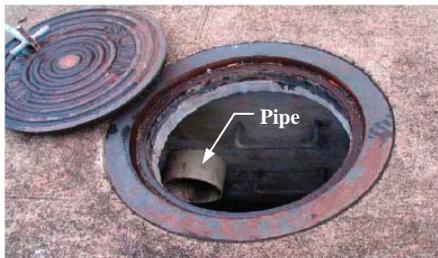
A corrugated hose connected to the downspout discharges runoff directly into the gutter.



A sidewalk culvert conveys runoff directly to the gutter.



A pipe connects runoff from a private parking lot directly into a drainage channel.



An underground pipe from private property connects to a City storm drain manhole.

Enforcement

The City may issue warnings or fines depending on the severity of the violation, which could range from \$1,000 to \$25,000 per violation per day.

What are my options?

A) Disconnect your connection to the City's MS4 or

B) Apply for a storm drain connection license. The online application process is:

1. Go online to www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com.
2. Click on Forms in the left bar.
3. Scroll down to Private Storm Drain Connections.
4. Click on "Application" to download the application.
5. Complete and send in per the instructions on the form.

Or Call the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) at 768-8106

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is considered a storm drain connection?

A: According to Section 14-12.2 of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu (ROH), a private storm drain connection means "any conveyance of storm water, including but not limited to any drainage pipe, ditch, or swale connected to any drainage facility or separate storm sewer system, including any curb and gutter." Examples of connections include underground pipes or above-ground hoses that convey runoff, such as from roof downspouts, directly to a gutter, channel, or drainage structure. See photos to left.

Q: Who is responsible for obtaining the storm drain connection license?

A: The property owner is responsible for obtaining this license. A property owner is defined in ROH Section 14-12.2 as, "the fee simple owner of record, lessee of record, administrator, administratrix, executor, executrix, personal representative, receiver, trustee, property management agent, or any other individual, corporation, or unincorporated association who has the use, control or occupation of land with claim of ownership whether the owner's interest be in absolute fee or a lesser estate."

Q: Why does the City require licenses for storm drain connections?

A: The requirement for licenses for private drain connections is part of the City's NPDES permit. The main reason for requiring licenses is to detect and eliminate any illegal discharges or pollutants from entering the drainage system through private drain connections.

Q: I inherited an old home where I think my yard drains and downspouts have been connected to the City's MS4. Do I need a private drain connection license or can my connections remain under a "Grandfather" rule?

A: There is no "grandfather" rule, you need to obtain a private drain connection license. All direct connections, including existing ones, designed for the conveyance of storm water from non-municipal and private drainage systems to the City's MS4 require a license. The license allows existing drain connections to remain in place. If you do not wish to obtain the license, you must disconnect your piped connection.

Q: What can I do with the storm water if I disconnect my connection?

A: You can direct the runoff toward a landscaped area or planter box to use the runoff for irrigation or you could capture the runoff in a rain barrel for later use as irrigation.

How can I get more information?

Storm Water Quality Branch.....	768-3242
Environmental Concern Line.....	768-3300

Visit the City's website at www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com