

Storm Water Matters

‘A ‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia.

No task is too big when done together by all.

Storm Water Heroes

When the storms roll in and the skies turn grey, we can count on our storm water heroes to save the day! The County’s Department of Public Works (DPW), Highways Division is responsible for maintaining the storm drain systems. You won’t find them in a fancy cape but when you see someone in a yellow safety vest equipped with a manhole hook, you will know that a DPW storm water hero is on the case!



Batman may cruise around on the Batmobile but our storm water heroes have a fleet of sweeper and vacuum trucks to protect Maui’s waters from pollutants. Street sweeping removes contaminants such as oil, dirt, leaves and trash from streets and prevents drains from becoming clogged. Vacuum trucks collect items and debris from our drains or catch basins such as plastic water bottles, cigarette butts and fast-food litter. Remember, storm drain systems function like a stream, carrying rainwater from parking lots and streets to the stream or ocean, usually without treatment.

Protecting storm water is everyone’s kuleana and starts with prevention. Replacing single-use items with a reusable water bottle, canvas bag, or bamboo cutlery can help reduce trash in the waste stream. You may be surprised to see what ends up in storm drains – *how many of these items do you use?*



Storm drain with litter near Paia Park.

Always make sure litter is in its place! Utilize outdoor recreational areas in a manner that protects storm water and allows other people to enjoy natural resources. When disposing trash outside make sure all your litter is in the proper place and won’t be blown into our storm drains or ocean.

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

Our storm water heroes work hard to keep drains clean, but their actions are a last line of defense. When we do our part each day to keep pollutants off the street we are helping our heroes and protecting our precious waters. Together we can accomplish great things and inspire others through leading by example!