

Our Ocean is Not a Dump!

By protecting Hawai'i's resources and cultural heritage, we safeguard Hawai'i's beauty, our quality of life, and our public health

August 2003

Aloha kakou,

We need to educate ourselves and our decisionmakers about the hazards of unregulated cruise ships to our fragile marine resources and to local communities.

Cruise ship traffic in Hawaiian waters is expanding at a rapid rate. Alarmingly, this notorious industry is operating without regulations that would protect our oceans.

Cruise ships carry an average of 3,000 people and produce as much sewage and waste as a mid-sized city. Tons of raw sewage, garbage and even hazardous waste are produced and disposed of *each day*. The central problem is that cruise ships do not have to comply with the same environmental and water quality protection laws as municipalities. They are allowed to dump sewage and garbage into our oceans—and they do.

Hawai'i's precious marine ecosystems, including fishing grounds, coral reefs, beaches, and surf sites are being impacted by this expanding and unregulated industry.

Incredibly, the most common practice of cruise ships is to dump waste at sea, usually at night. While they are not supposed to release raw sewage or other solid waste into state waters (three miles from shore), ocean currents can return discharged polluted waters and garbage to our shores.

The cruise industry has a history of breaking the law and has accumulated scores of federal pollution law violations. The industry is regularly fined millions of dollars for illegal dumping raw sewage, oily bilge water, garbage, falsifying reports, manipulating pollution control technology and lying to inspectors.

The cumulative or combined impacts of the rapidly increasing number of cruise ships releasing effluent, garbage, and diesel exhaust into our air and waters is a very serious problem that must be addressed.

KAHEA is working with a growing coalition of organizations and concerned citizens to ensure that strong, enforceable regulations are adopted. One aspect of promoting regulations is to share our concerns with the public.

We are raising funds to bring renowned expert, Ross Kline, author of *Cruise Ship Blues*, to Hawai'i to speak on several islands and to meet with legislators in October 2003. The industry's public relations army needs to be countered with documented facts.

We need your help. We need to raise about \$1,500. Every donation counts. Please give what you can. We also need your *kōkua* with outreach to reach others who care about our fragile marine resources and our way of life.

All donations are tax-deductible and can be sent to:

KAHEA
P.O. Box 27112
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

KAHEA (www.kahea.org) is working with people throughout the Islands who are concerned about the known impacts from unregulated floating cities to our beaches, coral reefs, fishing grounds and to our public health. By working together, we can ensure that our precious Island resources are not irreversibly degraded.

Please call KAHEA (808) 524-8220 (O'ahu) or Puanani Mench (808) 936-2051 (Kona) if you have any questions or need information to distribute.

Mahalo for your *kōkua*!