



May 27, 2009

## Focus on plastics at World Ocean Day

*By Don Robbins  
Staff Writer*

HONOLULU — Anthony Andrady is one of the world's leading authorities on plastic pollution in the marine environment and specializes in researching micro-plastic particles. He will be on Oahu next month to give public talks as part of World Ocean Day activities.

Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawaii (B.E.A.C.H.) is sponsoring the free events. The first will be held at the State Capitol auditorium Monday, June 8 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Andrady will discuss "The Impact of Plastics on the Health of our Ocean."

The second will be at Windward Community College Tuesday, June 9 where the topic will be "Plastics: A Major Threat to our Oceans," starting at 6:30 p.m.

Andrady is on the U.N. Environmental Program Committee and a senior research scientist at the Research Triangle Institute in North Carolina.

Andrady will speak about the serious ecological consequences of micro-plastic particles to the marine environment, according to B.E.A.C.H. co-founder and environmentalist Suzanne Frazer. He will discuss the problems of ingestion of micro-plastic particles by zooplankton, how plastic is concentrating toxic pollutants from sea water, and the concerns that toxic chemicals are entering the food web.

"It's a rare opportunity to hear from one of the leading researchers in the world on the threat of plastics. It's important for people to come and learn about what's affecting them," Frazer said.

The Capitol event will include door prizes donated by Aveda, Ben & Jerry's, Kale's Natural Foods, EcoUsable stainless steel water bottles and B.E.A.C.H. Refreshments will be provided by Starbucks Coffee and Kale's Natural Foods. The event will include a Marine Debris Awareness Student Art display in the auditorium foyer.

Students from eight schools on Oahu in grades 4-12 are taking part in the Marine Debris Awareness Student Art Project leading up to World Ocean Day. The artwork will be on display at various venues including the State Capitol and public libraries across the island.

East Oahu locations include the McCully-Moilili Public Library with artwork by grade nine students from University Laboratory School through June 12.

World Ocean Day is being celebrated with activities worldwide. It is an opportunity to reflect on the ocean's importance in people's lives, to learn more about the ocean and to take time to do something good for the planet.

Hawaii Kai-based B.E.A.C.H. also has a new campaign for recycling plastic bottle caps. Twist-on bottle caps made of rigid plastic will be collected at the B.E.A.C.H. booth at the outreach events including at an educational presentation and marine debris service activity. It will be held at Kahuku Community Center, Kahuku Village Association, 56-576 Kamehameha Highway Wednesday, May 27 from 2:45 to 5 p.m.

Bottle caps will also be collected at the B.E.A.C.H. monthly meeting in Hawaii Kai Sunday, May 31 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

B.E.A.C.H. is a nonprofit, volunteer organization bringing awareness and solutions to the problem of marine debris and litter on Hawaii's beaches. B.E.A.C.H. organizes presentations at schools and community organizations and beach clean-ups to educate the community about the need to care for beaches, coastline and marine life.

For more information, visit [www.b-e-a-c-h.org](http://www.b-e-a-c-h.org) or call 393-2168.

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