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Group's next beach cleanup on Saturday

By Diana Nomura

HAWAII KAI — Following a thorough beach cleanup this past Sunday to celebrate Earth Day, the nonprofit organization Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawaii will conduct a follow-up cleaning at Sandy Beach this Saturday from 3 to 5 p.m.

The purpose of the second cleanup is to find out if the group's litter campaign has been successful in reducing the amount of cigarette butts, which will be counted from both cleanup efforts.

"Even though cigarette butts are small, they can still harm and kill marine life, birds and even young children if ingested," explained Dean Otsuki, group organizer.

As part of this year's Earth Day celebration, group co-founders Otsuki and Suzanne Frazer are giving away Earth Day 2007 membership bags.

Members can choose between two types of reusable shopping sacks — a Kale's Natural Foods canvas bag or an Earthwise polypropylene bag.

"Everyone can do something on Earth Day to help the planet, such as putting litter in the right place, recycling and taking your own reusable bags with you when you go shopping," Frazer said.

The group is always looking for three types of volunteers.

The first wants to physically participate in cleanups for a couple of hours at a time.

The second is a support crew for those who don't necessarily want to participate in picking up marine debris but are happy to sit a registration table, answer questions, and hand out garbage bags for a few hours.

The third is more of along-term volunteer, who wants to get involved with the group and assist with organizing cleanups.



Volunteers pull a net full of debris from the waters during a recent cleanup at Makapuu Beach Park. The Hawaii Kai-based organization Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawaii will be conducting yet another cleanup at Sandy Beach this Saturday, when they hope to rid the area of cigarette butts.

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"(Otsuki and I) have just put in so many volunteer hours on this work because the need was so great," Frazer told East Oahu People back in January, following yet another cleanup at Makapuu Beach.

"We are completely grassroots, volunteer, out-of-our-house-in-Hawaii Kai-run-thing," she added. "There's no money, but we try to run things as organized and professional as we can."

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