



October 9, 2008

Lecture on Laysan Albatross this evening at Hanauma Bay

B.E.A.C.H.

Reader Submitted

In celebration of the International Year of the Reef, U.H. Sea Grant Hanauma Bay Education Program in partnership with the Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i are presenting a series of free lectures on the impact of marine debris on marine life as part of Marine Debris Awareness Month.

The lectures are open to the public and take place in the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve Theatre every Thursday in October at 6:30 p.m. Parking is free after 5:30 p.m.

Tonight's lecture, "Sea Birds as Indicators of Plastic Pollution in the Marine Environment" will be presented by Dr. David Hyrenbach, Associate Professor of Oceanography at the Hawai'i Pacific University. Dr. Hyrenbach will discuss the pervasive problem and impacts of plastic ingestion by seabirds, with emphasis on the ecology and habitat of the Laysan and black-footed albatross.

"Albatross and other seabirds ingest large amounts of plastic litter from the sea surface," said Dr. David Hyrenbach. "Bottle caps, lighters, plastic line, styrofoam and colorful fragments of discarded items are especially attractive."

On a recent voyage between Hawai'i and California this summer, Dr. Hyrenbach documented a wide variety of marine debris littering the ocean surface including oyster spacers, hagfish traps and light sticks. Dr. Hyrenbach's research includes using satellite-linked transmitters and mapping of surface debris to further understand where seabirds are ingesting plastic at sea. For more information, please visit his website: www.pelagicos.net.

Dr. Hyrenbach expertise is in seabird foraging ecology, the habits of far-ranging marine vertebrates and the conservation of pelagic systems.

For more information about Marine Debris Awareness Month events visit: www.b-e-a-c-h.org.
