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## READER-SUBMITTED

Posted on: Tuesday, October 21, 2008

# Discoverer of Great Pacific Garbage Patch speaks in Honolulu

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B.E.A.C.H.  
Reader Submitted

Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i has brought Captain Charles Moore, discoverer of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, to Honolulu this week to speak at two free, public events: a Marine Debris Forum at the Hawai'i State Capitol auditorium on Wednesday 22nd October, and at the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve Theatre on Thursday 23rd October. Both events are part of Marine Debris Awareness Month, in celebration of the 2008 International Year of the Reef.

Captain Moore first discovered the Eastern Garbage Patch ten years ago on his return voyage to California after sailing in the 1997 Trans Pacific yacht race to Hawai'i. Captain Moore veered from the usual sea route and found that there was nowhere he could go without seeing plastic.

Ever since, Captain Moore has dedicated his time and resources to researching the ocean's plastic load. He founded the Algalita Marine Research Foundation. In 1999 his research shocked the scientific world when he found six times more plastic than plankton in the central Pacific. Since then, Captain Moore has sampled plastic fragments in over twenty thousand miles of the North Pacific ocean. His work has been highlighted internationally.

### MARINE DEBRIS FORUM

Wednesday 22nd October 6:30pm – 9:00pm

On Wednesday at the Marine Debris Forum, Charles Moore will present "Zero Waste? The Ocean Can't Wait!" – a talk featuring new research findings from the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre (Great Pacific Garbage Patch), and ideas on how to deal with pelagic plastics which have become a plague on our oceans.

Charles Moore will then be joined by Regina Woodrom Rudrud, Maritime and Fisheries Anthropologist UHM, Donna Kahiwaokawailani Kahakui, founder of Kai Makana and Suzanne Frazer, co-founder of Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i in a panel discussion with the audience on marine debris in Hawai'i, the impacts on marine life and the environment, and solutions to this problem.

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Charles Moore on his research vessel the Algalita showing a glass bottle of ocean water with plastic fragments and marine life.

Algalita Marine Research Foundation

### HANAUMA BAY LECTURE

Thursday 23rd October 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Captain Moore's presentation on Thursday at Hanauma Bay, "Synthetic Polymers Entering the Marine Food Web" will explore the consequences of our society's profligate waste over the last half century, and how it is showing up in the ocean's food web from the smallest marine animals to the largest cetaceans. He will explain the unexpected longevity of our waste in the marine environment, how it threatens the ocean's biodiversity, and what we must do to change the tide of trash inundating our shores.

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Hawai'i State Senator Gary Hooser and Hawai'i State Representative Lyla Berg will open the forum and welcome the public. The event also includes the opening of a Marine Debris Awareness Month Student Art Project display. More than 600 students took part in the project from 15 schools. Thirty-five pieces will be displayed at the Hawai'i State Capitol from Oct. 22nd – 31st. Educational displays, refreshments and door prizes donated by Kale's Natural Foods, Ben & Jerry's, B.E.A.C.H. and the International Year of the Reef Hawai'i campaign will also be part of the evening's offerings. The Marine Debris Forum is being sponsored by the Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i, Hawai'i International Year of the Reef campaign, Malama Hawai'i, Kale's Natural Foods, Ben & Jerry's, and Starbucks. For further information about Marine Debris Awareness Month events, visit: [www.b-e-a-c-h.org](http://www.b-e-a-c-h.org)

restaurant

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