

Discussion Guide

Clean Water Common Ground

A film by Mary Tuti Baker & Daniel S. Janik



Whether we care to admit it or not, every one of us contributes to the pollution of land and water, either directly or indirectly. From determining how much detergent to use to make our clothes brighter to helplessly watching as some engine oil escapes down the sewer, everything has an impact on the land and ultimately on our water. Consequently, everyone needs to protect and maintain the environment. Nowhere is this more vital than on Northshore Oahu in Hawaii, with its pristine Mokuleia Beach (home of the ABC series *Lost*), considered one of the loveliest beaches in the world. In fact, Mokuleia is an ideal model--a general microcosm--for studying the effects that people have on water quality in all countries, including mainland USA, especially in terms of land management and water quality control.

Winner of the 2007 Silver Telly Award for TV-Nature/Wildlife

Winner of the 2007 Bronze Telly Award for TV-Documentary



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Activities (cont.)

Imagine you and your classmates are shipwrecked on an island. What kind of things would you do to make the wild island into a comfortable home? How would you manage these things, so that they don't adversely affect fresh, embayment and salt waters surrounding your village?

Utilize the *Clean Water, Common Ground* Learning Resources maintained by the author at <http://drjanik.tripod.com/cleanwatercommonground.html>

Notes

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT / THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUESTIONS

Were there prior corporate criminal knowledge or activities related to land management and water pollution? How big are Hawaii's current water pollution problems? Are any big enough to qualify as superfund sites? Can Hawaii--long acknowledged as a pristine topical paradise--come to grips with its water pollution problems? What could the average person, irrespective of culture, do to help?

To the Polynesians, water is the very basis of life. Not surprisingly, many location names reflect this: e.g. Ha - wai - i, Wai-ki-ki, Kai-mu-ki, Kai-lu-a. What determines if an island will be lush and green, or dry and lifeless? Where does fresh water comes from (trace it back as far as possible into a 'circle of life')? If people are to live there, there must be stores of water sufficient to meet their needs. A big city like Honolulu uses millions of gallons of fresh water each day. How and where is water stored on a volcanic island like Oahu?

Islands--like huge continents--have wet areas and dry areas. The wet areas are often too wet to grow grain; the dry, desert areas actually have cactus and are too dry to grow grain. If you lived on a small island, how would you distribute precious fresh water, so that it could be used to irrigate the dry areas and drain the wet areas? How do people in Hawaii do this?

Most Western societies use violence, criminal and torte law to control people's activities. Polynesians and many Eastern societies use a very different system based on Aloha, O'hana and cooperation. How could they ever control water pollution this way?

Fresh water flows down from the mountains to the sea. But where does it go after that? Does it simply flow into the ocean and mix with the salt water? If so, how come a small island like Oahu--with so many thirsty people--doesn't immediately run out of fresh water?

It is difficult for many people to imagine where sewage and wastewater goes. Volcanic islands have little room for waste water treatment plants. Where does Hawaii's waste water go?

It is sometimes said that people judge their environments based on where they grew up. Many of Hawaii's residents these days come from heavily populated Asian cities, like Hong Kong, where embayment water quality is poor at best (meaning, it's considered pretty good if there's no visible feces floating in it). In a recent, informal survey of heads of corporations that own or manage Waikiki properties, many were from huge cities in China, Korea, Phillipines and Indonesia, and basically agreed that the water here was so pure compared to the water "back home" that it was imposible to imagine that it might be subject to pollution. How do you think this would affect Hawaii's efforts to improve, restore or protect its waters?

Hawaii's number one industry is tourism. Most tourists don't want to hear about water quality problems in paradise. What would have to be done in order for Hawaii to acknowledge this problem and decide to do something about its degrading water quality?

OTHER RESOURCES

Books

Apoha: A Fish Story (State of Hawaii Dept. of Health and the U.S. Environment Protection Agency, 1994)

Drinking Water Quality: Taking Responsibility Coloring Book by Susan L. Conner and Lloyd A. Freeman (Waterworks Pub, 2000)

Articles

“Contaminated Groundwater Wells in the Kaiaka-Waialua Bay Hydrologic Unit Areas” by Franklin G. Baleto, Daniel S. Janik, Steve Russell and Sherwood Manyard. Presented before the University of Hawaii at Manoa Marine Option Program Student Seminar Series (May, 1996)

“Cultural Waters Run Deep” by Daniel S. Janik. *Kaiaka-Waialua Bay News* 95 Apr (4) 1:1,3.

“Water Quality: Taking the RAP” by Daniel S. Janik. *Kaiaka-Waialua Bay News* 94 Dec (3) 4:1-3.

“Soil and Water Quality” by Daniel S. Janik. *Kaiaka-Waialua Bay News* 94 Jun (3) 2:1,3.

“Meet Apoha the O’Opu” by Daniel S. Janik. *Kaiaka-Waialua Bay News* 94 Mar (3) 1:1,3.

“Student-Scientists Outstanding Water Quality Researchers” by Daniel S. Janik. *Kaiaka-Waialua Bay News* 94 Mar (3) 1:2-3.

“Our Ecological Health” by Daniel S. Janik. *Kaiaka-Waialua Bay News* 93 Dec (2) 4:1-3.

“Diversify, Diversify, Diversify!” by Daniel S. Janik. *Kaiaka-Waialua Bay News* 93 Sept (2) 3:1.

“Pesticides and Children” by Daniel S. Janik. *Kaiaka-Waialua Bay News* 93 Sept (2) 3:3.

“Preliminary Assessment of Biologically-Reclaimed Water” by Daniel S. Janik, J. DeMarco, S. Krishnan and B. Benson. (SAE Technical Paper #911326).

“Problems in Water Recycling for Space Station and Long-duration Life Support” by Daniel S. Janik. *J Aerosp Transact* 89 (98):952.

“Medical Effects of Iodine Disinfection Products in Spacecraft Water” by Daniel S. Janik. *J. Aerosp Transact* 89 (96):689. Also published as SAE Technical Paper #871490.

“Quality Requirements for Reclaimed/Recycled Water.” NASA Technical Memorandum #58279, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX. March 1987.

“Resolution of the 2nd International Workshop on Closed Ecological Systems.” Krasnoyarsk, Russia. 28 May 2004.

“Under Former Can Fields, Atrazine Contaminates Groundwater Sources.” *Environment Hawaii* 1996 June; 7 (1).

D. Janik, J. DeMarco, S. Krishnan and L. Li. “Biologically Reclaiming Water for Use on Earth and in Space.” W.L. Crump, S. Doll and W. Humphries (eds): *Proceedings of the First International Conference on Life Support and Biospherics*, University of Alabama, 1992. Also published as *HITAH Journal*, University of Hawaii at Manoa, #3825.

All of the above are also available from the author on CD-ROM as Adobe.pdf documents, or individually from Savant Books (on the internet) as an Adobe.pdf email attachment.

Notes

