



Ocean Gybe Beach Pollution Study

Location: Isolated beach west of Keanae Beach

Latitude: 20° 51.6' N

Longitude: 156° 08.4' W

Local Geography: The west side of Maui is steep and heavily vegetated. This bay was at the end of a long section of sea-cliffs and at the mouth of a small tidal river. The eastern side of the bay featured deeply worn volcanic rock, which would not allow for easy transport of plastic debris.

Local Population Size: Immediate location ~ 10 houses nearby. A small fishing shack sat on the cliffs to the east of the cobblestone beach.

Study Location Description: The beach featured a steep cobblestone beach berm, backing into a sea cliff on the western edge and a small tidal river on the eastern edge.

Study Area: 80m X 2m = 160m²

Pollution: Peanut Butter Tub: 1
Boogie Board: 1
Fishing Line: ~ 20m
Plastic lids: 6
Bicycle inner tubes: 3
Spray Nozzle: 1
Lobster bait traps: 2
Fishing Floats: 2
Pop Bottles: 8
PVC Piping: 4
No Trespassing Sign: 1
Small Plastic pieces: 5
Snorkeling Mask: 1

Pollution Density: 39 pieces / 160m² = 0.24 pieces/m²

Notes: Currents in this area appeared to be more offshore than onshore. Trade winds would blow constantly cross-shore at this location.