City Stream Maintenance

Rev. Ord. Honolulu § 40-2.3(a). The owner of any stream has the duty to maintain, dredge, and clear such stream, or applicable portion thereof, so that the natural flow of water runs unimpaired. The owner shall also be responsible for the removal of any debris, vegetation, silt or other items or material of any kind that may interfere with the natural flow of water or is likely to create an unsanitary condition or otherwise become a public nuisance.

If a stream is privately-owned, it is the responsibility of the private owner to maintain the stream. If the stream is state-owned, it is the responsibility of the state to maintain the stream.

- Rev. Ord. Honolulu § 40-2.3(b). The chief engineer shall conduct an inspection of all city-owned streams that are lined with concrete or other impervious material no less than annually and all other city-owned streams no less than semi-annually, and shall remove or cause to be removed any debris, vegetation, silt, or other item or material of any kind that may interfere with the natural flow of water or is likely to create an unsanitary condition or otherwise become a public nuisance. In determining the scheduling of the annual or semi-annual inspections and removal of debris, vegetation, silt, or other items or materials, as applicable, the chief engineer shall consider seasonal patterns of elevated flood risk, such as that associated with hurricane activity, and approved, applicable permits.
- Rev. Ord. Honolulu § 40-2.5, -2.6, and -2.7 allow the City to notify the owner of non-city owned streams that maintenance is required, to issue notices of violation, to issue civil fines, and to enter the subject streams to conduct maintenance (or hire contractors to do so) and then charge the owners for the expenses. The DFM does not have significant resources to do very much of this type of enforcement. The few notices that have been issued are for properties right next to streams that we own.





