

KEWALO HARBOR

NEWSLETTER



Rule of the month

Please respect the tow away zones on harbor property. All tow away zones are there for safety reasons and are marked with red paint.

§15-213-22 Tow zone or tow-away zone. Any county police officer, Kewalo basin security vendor, state law enforcement officer, or special police officer may remove or cause to be removed any vehicle that is left unattended or parked in a tow zone or tow-away zone at all hours of any day on the streets or portions thereof.

Events:

Noaa is hosting the following events free of charge—come check them out by Aloha Tower:

August 28, 5–7 PM

After Hours: Speaker Series with UH PhD Candidate, Megan McElligott on Spinner Dolphins in Hawaii.

Register here:

bit.ly/speakerseriessignup

September 25, 5–7:30 PM

After Hours: 4th Thursday Film Screening of Ocean with David Attenborough.

You can find some paper handouts with more information for the events in our office.

Tsunami Debrief

We're grateful to report that the recent tsunami warning turned out to be a scare—no damage was reported, and everyone stayed safe. However, it's a good opportunity for us to reflect on what we learned and how we can be better prepared for any future events.

Some confusion arose during the alert regarding the U.S. Coast Guard's directive to "leave all commercial harbors" under threat of fines. We want to clarify: Kewalo Basin Harbor, while technically categorized as a small boat commercial harbor, was not the intended focus of this directive. The Coast Guard's warning was aimed at large-scale commercial operations, such as those at Honolulu Harbor and Barbers Point, which are critical to the island's infrastructure. We have since followed up with USCG and shared the confusion this caused, and we're hopeful for clearer communication in the future.

While it's generally safer for vessels to wait out a tsunami offshore, please only do so if it's truly safe. A few important reminders:

Your vessel should be seaworthy, with working navigational lights, especially if heading out at night.

Bring enough provisions—food, water, fuel, and supplies—for an extended time offshore.

When in doubt, stay put at home. It's better to be safe than sorry.

In a worst-case scenario, it's important to remember: Harbors could be destroyed or closed off. Debris in the water could make return unsafe for days or even weeks. Emergency services may not be immediately available to assist stranded or endangered vessels.

We appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation during this recent event. While we were fortunate this time, each experience helps us grow stronger and more prepared as a harbor community. Thank you for looking out for one another and for staying informed.

Stormwater BMP Tip



Clean vessel engines using environmentally friendly methods such as using a brush to loosen engine grime and a rag to wipe it away.

NEWSLETTER DATE: August 2025

Kewalo Harbor Office: (808) 594 0849 | Ward Security: (808) 597 1172