Application of C-MORE Science Kits for field sampling in Kaneohe Bay
Doreen Seaton, Aiea High School

This summer marine science students at Aiea High School were engaged learners in a water properties of Oahu project. The goal of the project was to have students understand how anthropogenic emissions and discharges effect aquatic ecosystems. Students applied skills learned from C-MORE science kits to conduct research in Kaneohe Bay.

Students used the Plankton, Ocean Conveyor Belt, and Random Sampling Kits in the classroom. They applied these skills in the field while conducting a Plankton Tow in route to the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) at Coconut Island. They used the facilities at HIMB to analyze the sample.

In conjunction with a field trip to the Clean Islands Council to learn about oil spills, students sampled water properties in Honolulu Harbor using an FTD. Students compared this sample to data collected at Kaneohe Bay to investigate the differences in chlorophyll concentrations. Plankton tows from Kaneohe Bay and Kailua Bay were used to compare plankton communities.

Students also used the FTD data as visual representations to investigate the different ways scientists study microbial communities through physical and biological profiling. Students were able to relate how microbial oceanography is the backbone for all research at HIMB. Students used this connection to explore education and career fields in oceanography.