



CHELSEA GROUP LIMITED

## Chelsea Group Building Scientist Celebrates Earth Day by Giving Back

By Andy Beth Miller

Like most Hawaii residents, Chelsea Group Building Scientist Halle Senger spent her Earth Day holiday at the beach. Yet unlike the majority, who were tanning in repose or riding waves, Senger's hours were spent scouring the sands of eastern Oahu with a trash bag in hand.

As part of Sustainable Coastline Hawaii's Earth Day Celebration, Senger's scavenger hunt was her way of giving back to her community by keeping its beaches clean. Operating from a central base at Waimanalo Beach Park, more than 400 volunteers fanned out to rid the coastline—spanning from Sherwoods to Makapu'u—of debris and rubbish.

The sponsored event began around 9 a.m., as a diverse group of local volunteers joined Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii to collect thousands of pounds of trash. From millions of tiny microplastics washed ashore to broken glass bottles left behind post-barbecues, Senger was amazed at how much trash had amassed on the beaches she considers to be an extension of her home.



“Waimanalo Beach specifically had a lot of microplastics in the sand,” recalled Senger, who spent the majority of the beach sweep at Makapu'u. “Mainly I focused on clearing the debris that had collected on the rocks near the lighthouse there, and the sea grapes, and sadly, a lot of broken glass, where people had thrown out beer bottles which later shattered on the rocks.”

Around noon, the clean-up was pau, and was ruled as a great success. As a reward for their hard work, Senger and fellow volunteers were invited back to the Waimanalo Beach headquarters, where a festive thank you from Sustainable Coastlines awaited. Amid live music, keiki games, and a shared meal (utilizing plastic free utensils and plateware, of course), the group communed over a day well spent.

“It was a really cool thing, to be able to come back and listen to music together, eat a meal alongside one another, and just get to spend some time with other community members who

shared the same care and concern for our beaches, and for the beautiful world we have the privilege of living in,” shared Senger, who first found out about the event via a Facebook post.

When asked why she decided to forego the usual beach gathering and barbecue among friends in exchange for this celebration, Senger explained how Sustainable Coastlines has taught her a lot, and opened her eyes to new ways of being a good steward of the environment. “The Sustainable Coastline program’s vision also aligns well with what we do at Chelsea Group on a basic fundamental level,” she shared. “We’re always discovering ways to better, to improve, and to preserve our resources [in our case, buildings], with the world in mind.” So Senger was, in fact, partying like a rock star this Earth Day—partying with purpose.

For more information on Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii visit:

<http://www.sustainablecoastlineshawaii.org/>

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#### ABOUT Chelsea Group

Chelsea Group is a Hawaii-based building science consulting firm specializing in preserving and enhancing the mechanical infrastructure in existing commercial office, institutional, retail, and industrial facilities. For more than 25 years, Chelsea's building scientists and engineers have solved problems and found opportunities that add asset value to these properties. The Chelsea team is widely recognized for its thought leadership in sustainable, high performance buildings.

