## CÔMPASS

## The Message Box

Fertilizers, chemicals, and other pollution from drains and lawns make their way to the coast due to rain and flooding. The pollution makes ocean water more acidic.

Acidic ocean water slows down the ability of corals to build reefs. The stress from acidic water also puts corals at risk for disease.

When we do our part to reduce ocean acidification, we help the coral reefs that provide our coastal communities with thousands of jobs, protect our homes from storm impacts, and maintain our culture.

Problem

Audience:

Coastal communities in Hawaii

Goal:

Benefits

Coastal communities in Hawaii take steps to reduce the impacts of ocean acidification on corals

Solutions

Coral reefs slow down storm waves and flood waters. protecting communities from the impacts of hurricanes. Losing reefs leaves coastal communities at an increased risk for storm damage. Losing coral reefs also means losing a habitat for the fish and shellfish that people eat, catch for fun, and are a part of Hawaii's economy and culture.

So What?

There are simple things that you can do to help corals:

- 1) Reduce fertilizer use on lawns that can be washed out to the coast,
- 2) dispose of medications in the trash and not down the sink or toilet,
- 3) use "reef safe" sunscreen without chemicals that have been shown to be harmful to corals and other ocean life