In 2000, the State of Hawaii-Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) was designated the lead agency for the prevention and eradication of alien aquatic organisms introductions via ballast water and hull fouling. Since 2000, the DLNR-Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) has been working with an interagency task force in the development of the administrative rules for ballast water.



The interagency task force, called the Alien Aquatic Organism Task Force (AAOTF), consists of representatives from State and Federal agencies, the shipping industry, the scientific community and nongovernmental organizations.





The administrative rules for ballast water was developed to mirror the Federal (United States Coast Guard) regulations. Some of the key points are:

- Intent of the rules is to prevent the introduction and spread of alien species from ballast water discharges in State waters.
- Vessels must have a ballast water management plan specifically for that vessel.
- Vessels, unless exempt, must file a ballast water reporting form to the DLNR 24 hours prior to arrival by fax or email.
- Vessels, unless exempt, must conduct a mid-ocean ballast water exchange (empty-refill or flow through).
- Vessels, unless exempt, must obtain approval from the DLNR prior to discharging "untreated" ballast water into State waters.
- DLNR may take samples, examine documents and other inquiries to evaluate the compliance with these rules.