



# Valley Isle

EXCURSIONS



### Background:

At Valley Isle Excursions, environmental and social responsibility go hand-in-hand. Over a hundred visitors per day see and learn about the diverse culture of Hawaii during their tour of Maui. Valley Isle Excursions' drivers spend almost 12 hours interacting with up to 12 guests, putting Maui's beauty on display. This daily review of our most precious areas shows the need to act sustainably and to support the communities in which the tour features, primarily Hana.

Starting at the baseyard office and extending out across the island, Valley Isle Excursions supports many environmental initiatives, educational and cultural programs through hands-on work, donations and employee support.

### Maui Tour Office and Baseyard:

Onsite maintenance of the fleet of custom cruisers provides the ability to manage all aspects of usage and disposal of materials. Utmost care is given while the mechanics make sure the vehicles are in top condition and ready for driving the road to Hana.

The building was designed to reduce electrical & water usage maximizing efficiency and safety of the entire operation.

- ✚ Maintenance bay floors have a reflective coating allowing for less light required for vehicle repairs.
- ✚ Our in-house designed custom bottle draining system removes waste & maximizes every drop of oil, making very clean bottles that can be recycled. All used oil & materials are picked up for recycling by Maui Petroleum. Spill kits are easily accessible and employees are well trained in its use.
- ✚ The main ice-machine used for tour coolers has been re-engineered to super-cool the water prior to being made into ice, greatly reducing electrical costs.
- ✚ All vegetation surrounding the building and property are native with low-water requirements. After each tour, melted cooler ice is used for all irrigation needs.
- ✚ Location & angle of the sun was utilized to allow the building to be mostly air-cooled. In closed areas, setting air-conditioning thermostats up to 72 degrees, using fresh air via open windows and installing sunshades on all windows has provided an additional 15% savings in electrical costs, about \$400 each month.
- ✚ Every drain is marked properly if they lead to the ocean. Vehicles are cleaned on-site with minimal water and use only reef-safe, eco-friendly ingredients. Toilets & faucets are setup with low-flow devices. Good water usage practices have provided another \$620 in water savings monthly.
- ✚ Since starting a cardboard and paper recycling program it has decreased trash usage by more than 50%. Saving \$460 a month in refuse fees.
- ✚ Most of our accounts payable and billing is now completely digital. This has caused paper & ink usage to drop by almost 70 percent generating almost \$2000 in monthly savings. All remaining paper product usage in the office is made with 30% or more recycled materials.

- ✚ Solar powered dual-purpose outside security LED lights brightens for up to 20 min when motion is detected. This saves on usage and bulbs while providing a safe area for the drivers to operate during pre-dawn or after-dark tasks, never forgetting to turn off a light.
- ✚ Electrical appliances such as battery chargers for tools & cell phones are set to turn off during low demand periods saving as much as 8% per month on electrical costs.

#### Out on the Road to Hana:

Valley Isle Excursions is the first land-based tour company on Maui to be Hawaii Ecotourism Certified. Being a member on the US Green Building Council and the only Hawaii based International Ecotourism Society member shows their commitment to environmental sustainability. Much of the costs & material usage is for providing for the tour itself. Eco-friendly practices extend to that area which helps reduce or eliminate fuel & water waste.

- ✚ Driver training on fuel conservation program, has saved 3% in fuel costs or approximately \$1200 a month.
- ✚ All drinking containers, bottles and cans have been recycled since 2006 when Hi5 came into existence. 100% of the containers provided to guests are brought back to the baseyard for recycling. It is picked up by a family of 9 to redeem for children school supplies & clothes. (Valley Isle Excursions has no idea of how much they recover from doing this.)
- ✚ Real cutlery & plates are used during the tour as well as 30% recycled paper products like drinking cups, hand towels & toilet paper.
- ✚ On tour, the picnic lunch in Hana is GMO-free and the chicken served has been grown using organic feed practices.

#### Upcoming Environmental Goals and Initiatives:

Valley Isle Excursions is always working towards improving the quality of the tour and sustainability of its operations. In the coming months and years, their goals include:

- ✚ Installation of solar and wind generators
- ✚ Further reduction in paper and plastic usage.
- ✚ All tour vehicles converted to cleaner fuel sources.
- ✚ Bulk shipping and increased recycled product options thru demand partnerships.
- ✚ Active petitioning for re-evaluation of industry standards including but not limited to:
  - Energy Star Certification
  - LEED Certification
  - Green Business Certification
- ✚ Greater support of Hawaiian Ecotourism Association & BeReefSafe.com Initiatives.