FAQ Sheet

Kaimalino Beach, Kailua, Hawaii
(Former Honolulu Skeet Club at Kapoho Point)

1. **How did the pellets get there?** For approximately 40 years (between 1933 and 1974) the area was used as a recreational skeet shooting range. The pellets were deposited during the years of operation.

2. **What do the pellets look like?** See attached photographs.

3. **Are the pellets on our property? If so, are we at risk?** We believe that there may be pellets underlying the topsoil of homeowner’s property. However, if the soil is not exposed (i.e., covered with cement, asphalt, grass, etc.) then there is no risk to homeowners/tenants. Exposed soils (such as gardens, planting areas) may contain pellets that could potentially be a risk.

4. **We have lived here for 25+ years, are we at a risk now?** If a person were to consume the pellets, then there could be a potential health problem. If there were no means to consume any pellets, then there would be no risk.

5. **Are the pellets a health hazard?** The pellets contain lead as a component. As such, the consumption of the pellets could release the lead content and allow the lead to be absorbed into the blood. This could cause elevated blood lead levels.

6. **Are my children at risk while on the beach?** We have identified specific areas along the beach where concentrations of pellets were higher. The pellets only pose a potential health risk if swallowed. As a precaution, we recommend that children avoid playing in these areas. We have also identified areas of the beach where no pellets were found, and these areas would pose no risk.

7. **What should I do if I suspect my child has swallowed one or more pellets?** Have your child’s pediatrician test them for blood lead levels.

For more information, please contact:
Cal Miyahara, Project Manager
Hawaii Department of Health
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 206
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 (Phone: 586-4249; Fax: 586-7537)

January 2009
Photo 1: Shotgun pellets in the sandy area (gray pellets, approximately 2 mm in diameter).

Photo 2: Shotgun pellets in the coral tide pool area (dry).

Photo 3: Shotgun pellets in the coral tide pool area (wet).