



FSM Ridge to Reef (R2R) Project
"Protect our Home, from Land to SEA"

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BEACH CLEAN UP WITH STUDENTS FROM AKOYIKOYI

Akoyikoyi's Earth Council

Pisiwi, Chuuk, May 27, 2019 — The Pisiwi Clean-up team, comprising of the Department of Marine Resources (DMR), the Chuuk State R2R Coordinator, Chuuk Conservation Society (CCS) and Chuuk Women's Council (CWC) set out with more than 20 students and four teachers to the island of Pisiwi for a Beach clean-up effort.



More than 50% of the population of Chuuk visit Pisiwi for picnics, camping and other recreational activities. Over the years, what was once a pristine little island has become accumulated with all types of waste due to lack proper waste disposal from visitors, including waste floating from neighboring islands that ended up on Pisiwi's beaches.

The clean up team took on the challenge in an effort to restore Pisiwi's natural beauty to ensure it remains accessible for public use. But most importantly, to help promote understanding amount young students on why it is critical to properly dispose waste in designated areas, build

understanding around the environmental impacts of waste on terrestrial resources and marine species, and to educate the students on the various types of ecosystems on and around the island.

On the day of the clean up, a mini orientation was conducted to enforce the team's ground rules and remind the students on why the effort was highly critical. To ensure everyone's safety, life jackets were distributed prior to setting out on boats to Pisiwi. Upon arrival, the students formed two groups and set out to collect trash beginning with the beach area and worked their way inland. A total of 26 (45 gallons) trash bags were

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collected and transported back to Weno for proper disposal, turning what was once an eyesore back to its natural beauty. It is with hope that future visitors recognize the hard work of the team and continue to maintain the cleanliness of the island.

The team also hopes to continue this effort by working with other schools in creating Earth Councils and encouraging other young minds to take initiative in ensuring the sustainability of Chuuk's natural resources and the long-term use of those resources.

The Pisiwi clean-up team would like to acknowledge Island PRIDE for its generosity and support, Akoyikoyi's Earth Council, the student volunteers and teachers for willingly joining to support and assist and the team members from CWC, DMR and CCS for their continuous efforts and never-ending team spirit!



For more details on the R2R in FSM project, please contact:

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