



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

WILLIAM J. AILA JR.
CHAIRPERSON

For Immediate Release: May 31, 2012

WAIKIKI BEACH NOURISHMENT PROJECT SUCCESSFULLY RESTORES ICONIC BEACH

HONOLULU -- The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) has successfully completed a four-month project that widened and elevated approximately 1,730 feet of Waikiki Beach, from the west end of the Kuhio Beach swim basin, near the Duke Kahanamoku statue, to the existing Royal Hawaiian groin. In some areas where tides once lapped at walls, there is now 40 feet of new sand.

“The Waikiki Beach Nourishment Project is a prime example of a successful public and private partnership that will have far-reaching benefits for local users and our visitors,” said Governor Neil Abercrombie. “The project has significantly improved Waikiki Beach, for the preservation of one of Hawai‘i’s most iconic and heavily utilized shorelines.”

The project received financial support from DLNR’s Beach Fund, the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority (HTA), and Kyo-ya Hotels and Resorts, LP. Additional stakeholders included the Waikiki Improvement Association; other Waikiki Beach hotels, including the Outrigger Waikiki on the Beach, Hyatt Regency, Waikiki Beach Marriott, Pacific Beach Hotel, and Aston Waikiki Beach; the City and County of Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation and Ocean Safety Division; the beach concessions; the Waikiki Neighborhood Board; and the state Department of Health.

“We are happy to demonstrate that we are capable of recycling original sand and renourishing Waikiki Beach in an environmentally sensitive manner, said William J. Aila, Jr., DLNR chairperson. “This project met its goals with a small amount of disruption for a project of this size. This successful completion is due to the strong and sustained collaborative efforts of all the stakeholders who were closely involved throughout the project. Over the next few decades, regular maintenance will be necessary to prolong the life of this treasured beach, and we will look to many partners to support these steps.”

(more)

Placement of sand on the last stretch of beach in front of the Outrigger Hotel to the Royal Hawaiian Hotel was completed April 25, on schedule. Lead contractor Healy Tibbitts Builders, Inc., then completed removal of equipment and restoration of the staging area at the 'Ewa basin of Kuhio beach.

Mike McCartney, president and CEO of HTA, said: "Waikiki Beach is a landmark for our visitor industry and for our residents. We would like to extend a mahalo to everyone involved and affected during the work, and look forward to everyone continuing to enjoy Waikiki Beach."

Rick Egged, president of the Waikiki Improvement Association, added: "The members of the association are very pleased. The number one past complaint of our visitors has been that the beach is overcrowded, and we now have 37 feet more beach than we had in January. Beach restoration and maintenance projects are essential if we are to preserve the \$2 billion dollar a year asset that is Waikiki Beach.

DLNR worked with the state Department of Health, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Coastal Zone Management Program, NOAA-National Marine Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure the project met all state and federal requirements for environmental quality control. DLNR also held numerous meetings with city and state agencies, community organizations, businesses and visitor industry representatives to review the plans and maintain an open dialogue on the project's progress.

Sam Lemmo, administrator of the DLNR Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands, which managed the project, said: "This was a very complicated project that required patience and cooperation from many different stakeholders. The project performance will be monitored for several years and will include profiling and estimation of beach volume by the University of Hawai'i. They will also be conducting benthic monitoring of offshore Waikiki areas."

For information about the project, go to the DLNR Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands web site at <http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/occl/>.

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Before and after project photos available at <https://picasaweb.google.com/101613020396360217549/WaikikiBeachSandReplenishmentProjectSpring2012#>

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Project details box;

The sand replenishment project involved:

- **Recovery of 24,000 cubic yards of sand from recovery areas located 1,500 to 3,000 feet offshore of the project area in a water depth of about 10 to 20 feet**
- **The project's objective was to return the beach to its 1985 width.**
- **Pumping sand to an onshore dewatering site within the Diamond Head swim basin**
- **Placement of sand according to design beach profiles to ensure the right amount of sand is located in the correct sections of beach**
- **Removal of two deteriorated groin structures**
- **Offshore environmental and water quality monitoring**
- **Beach and nearshore sediment monitoring**

Project requirements:

- **60-day operating window of calm seas**
- **Mild south shore wind and wave conditions, in winter**
- **Sand recovery from offshore deposits began January 23**
- **Sand hauling began the week of March 12.**

Project method:

- **Hydraulic suction dredge barge retrieved high quality sand from underwater offshore deposits**
- **Dewatering basin allowed sand to dry before placement**
- **Trucks hauled and placed sand during weekday morning hours; no hauling took place in afternoons**
- **Safety corridor on the beach established so people could safely cross to the ocean and back.**
- **Weekday morning sand hauling allowed continued public use of the beach while maintaining project objectives.**