

Recent Hawaii Beach Nourishment Projects

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3:00-3:30 pm Coffee Hour

3:30-4:30 pm Seminar

Abstract

Hawaii is blessed with beautiful natural sand beaches, but over time many of these beaches have slowly degraded, due to both natural forces and man's activities. Shoreline alteration including beach nourishment was active during the early creation and development of Honolulu and Waikiki; however, for the past 50 years little beach maintenance work has been accomplished. Environmental concerns, increasing rules and regulations pertaining to activities in the coastal zone, and the cost of beach maintenance in a time of limited government financial capability, along with other issues and concerns, have seemingly relegated beach maintenance to a relatively low priority. With Hawaii's population increasing, and nature's erosional forces becoming greater, the future of our sand beaches is potentially at greater risk. Several recent beach nourishment projects illustrate what can be done to help maintain our beaches, as well as the complexities of doing so. Waikiki Beach was a pure beach nourishment project, with no attempt to alter the natural on-going coastal processes. Iroquois Point was a nourishment and stabilization project, with every effort being made to neutralize the chronic erosion forces and maintain the beach fill. These projects offer lessons learned for good management and stewardship of our beaches.

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Please join us for the coffee hour at the seminar venue a half hour before the seminar, 3:00 – 3:30 pm