



## **DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 30, 2020

### **ROYAL HAWAIIAN GROIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT BEGINS NEXT WEEK**

(Honolulu, HI) – Next week the DLNR Office of Conservation and Coast Lands (OCCL) in partnership with the Waikīkī Beach Special Improvement Association (WBSIDA) is kicking off a new beach improvement project for Waikīkī Beach. The project located at the Royal Hawaiian Groin, includes construction of a 160 foot-long replacement groin for the existing Royal Hawaiian Groin. The existing groin is over 90 years old and is at risk of failure due to deterioration. The existing groin is connected to the Royal Hawaiian Hotel seawall and structural engineers determined it is leaking sand and showing severe signs of deterioration including large voids, cracks, bowing and no apparent internal reinforcement. Its failure would result in the destabilization and eventual loss of over 1,700 feet of sandy shoreline located to the east of the groin.

The objective of the proposed project is to maintain the beach so that it can provide its intended recreational and aesthetic benefits, facilitate lateral access along the shore, and provide a first line of defense to the backshore in the event of storm wave attack. The new groin will also reduce the adverse impacts of beach sand migrating offshore. The planned replacement groin will be constructed of a sloping basalt rock rubble-mound in an L-shaped design and constructed using an adaptive re-use plan with the new structure built around the remnants of the existing groin. The new groin will serve to stabilize the beach in the western end of the Royal Hawaiian beach and mitigate the extreme seasonal beach erosion which has become more frequent recently in this area. The groin is designed to maintain the approximate beach width of the 2012 Waikiki Beach Maintenance shoreline nourishment project. No enlargement of the beach is planned as part of this project.

The existing Royal Hawaiian Groin is approximately 370 feet in total length, and curves to the southeast beyond the toe of the beach. Only the first approximately 150 feet of the groin is functional; after that it is submerged and broken apart. The groin was originally built in 1927 and utilized a large rubble mound on the western side to assist in structural stability. This rock buttress no longer exists. Of primary concern is the landward portion of the groin which holds the existing sand beach in place, and which is severely undermined, missing a significant portion of the inter-

block grout and leaning to the west. The partial failure of the structure has led to increased undermining of the foundation and loss of sand from the newly nourished beach on the east side.

“This project serves as a critical erosion control measure that will improve the stability of Waikīkī Beach but is also an important step towards increased resilience of Waikīkī Beach to coastal hazard events and climate change impacts such as sea-level rise in Waikīkī.” said Sam Lemmo, OCCL Administrator.

“The Waikīkī Beach Special Improvement District is eager to see this long-awaited project get underway during this time of recovery and renewal. The WBSIDA is proud to be a partner on this essential and transformative project and usher in the onset of a new era of proactive beach management plans and improvement projects underway in Waikiki.” said Rick Egged, President of the WBSIDA.

The \$1,500,000 project is supported through a public-private partnership with the Waikīkī Beach Special Improvement District which is paying for 50% of the project through a special tax assessment from Waikīkī commercial properties. The University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program is providing community outreach and coordination for the project and will be involved with project monitoring and evaluation.

The project start date is Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with a construction timeline of two months for completion. The project consultant and engineering designer is *Sea Engineering, Inc* and the contractor for construction is *Kiewit Infrastructure West Co.*

Additional project information and construction photos during construction can be accessed at: <https://www.wbsida.org/projects-royalhawaiiangroin>

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### **(RESOURCES)**

(All video/photos courtesy: DLNR)

Video:

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