Waikīkī Beach Virtual Site Visit

Date of Site Visit: April 23, 2023

1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Low tide: 11:01 am, -0.12 ft

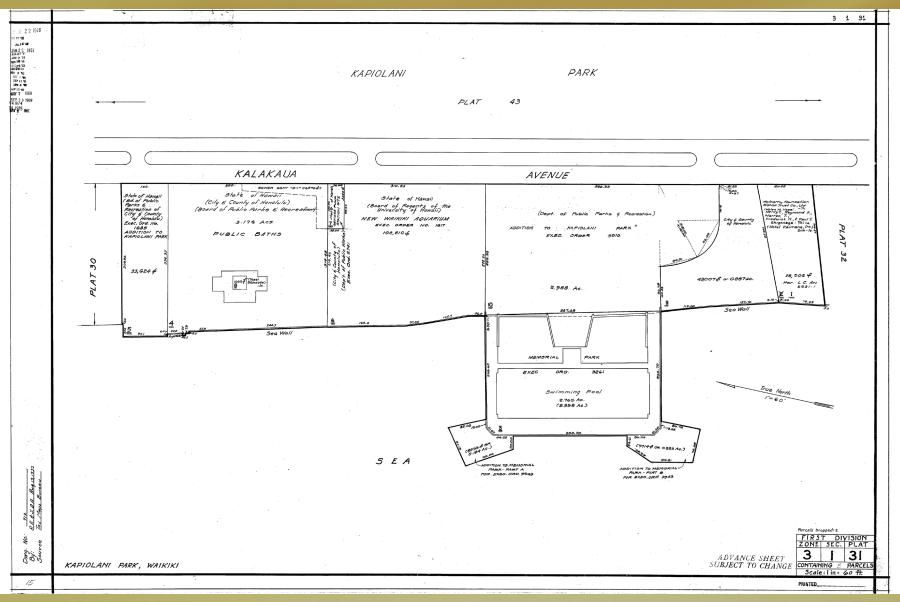
High tide: 6:51 pm, 1.95 ft

Presentation by the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, June 23, 2023

Waikīkī: Kahanamoku Beach to Kaimana Beach



Tax Map Key Plat (1) 3-1-031



Kapi'olani Park I



A: Kaimana Beach





Kaimana was a narrow beach prior to 1928. The Waikīkī War Memorial Natatorium was completed in 1927, and it allowed a larger beach to grow. Kaimana is a popular beach for residents. On this day it was closed to protect a monk seal and her pup. The Kapua Channel offshore is used by swimmers and snorkelers, and is an entry/exit point for paddlers and surfers.

B: Aquarium Walkway





There is a shallow reef flat offshore extending approximately 35 yards, then a channel that was dredged in the 1930s to create a swimming basin. A narrow beach has formed fronting the seawall. The beach appears some years, and disappears other years. Parts of the seawall are failing, and the walkway is currently closed.

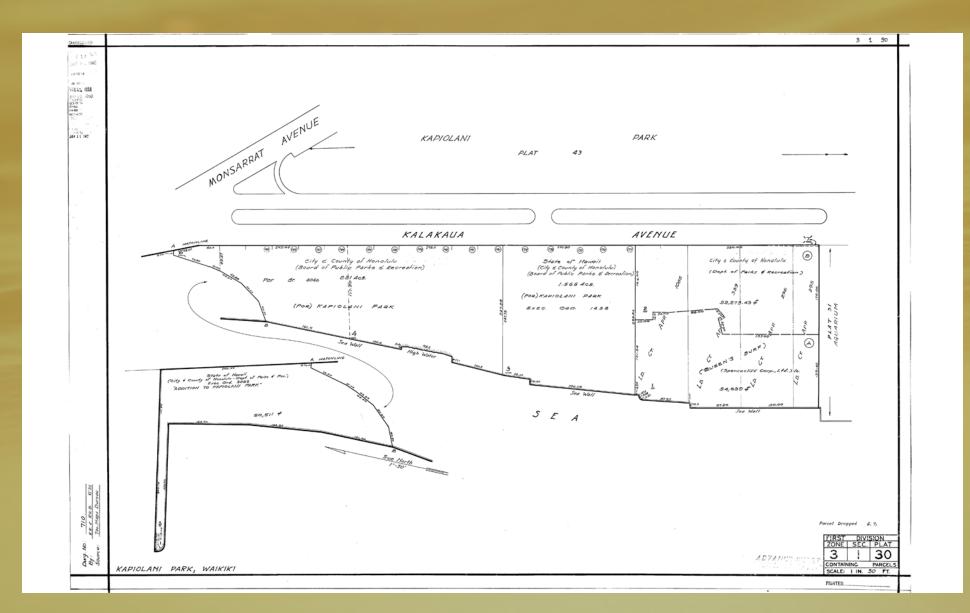
C: Former Public Baths





There is a 98-foot long protrusion along this section of the seawall that extends between twelve and twenty-seven feet seaward. Some records refer to it as a "planter box," while oral accounts state that it is a remnant of the public baths. The area was capped with concrete pavings in 2020. Waves frequently overtop the wall during the summer south-swell season. The Publics surf break is offshore.

Tax Map Key Plat (1) 3-1-030



Kapi'olani Park II



D: Queen's Surf Beach





Queen's Surf Beach was named after Queen Kapi'olani, who had a residence, Paoakalani, here. It was the site of Queen's Surf Nightclub after WWII, and in 1971 the City took the property in order to expand Kapi'olani Park. At that time the beach was 200 feet wide. The beach was a popular gathering spot for O'ahu's LGTBQ community through the 2010s, when the beach eroded significantly. The lifeguard tower was abandoned in 2020 due to severe beach loss.

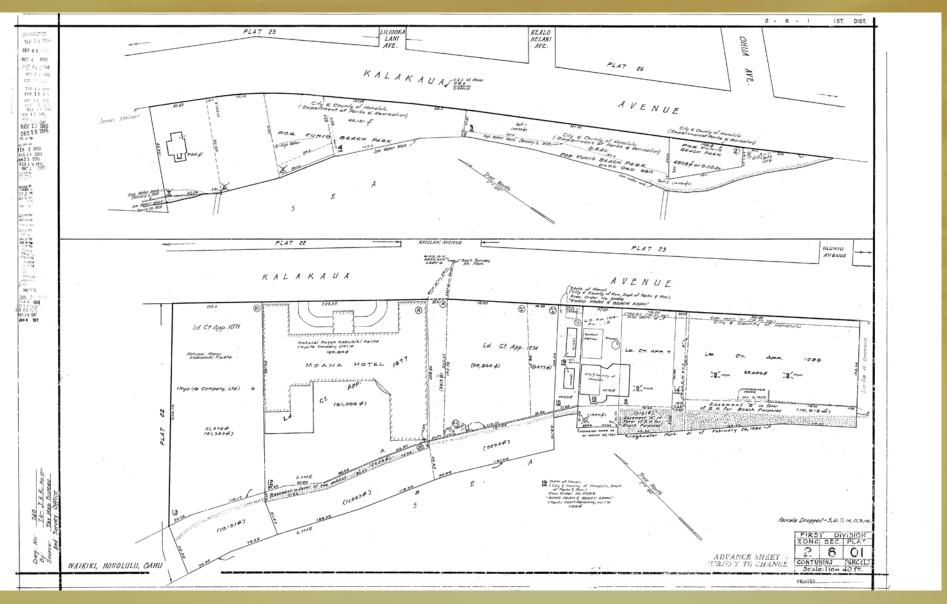
E: Walls



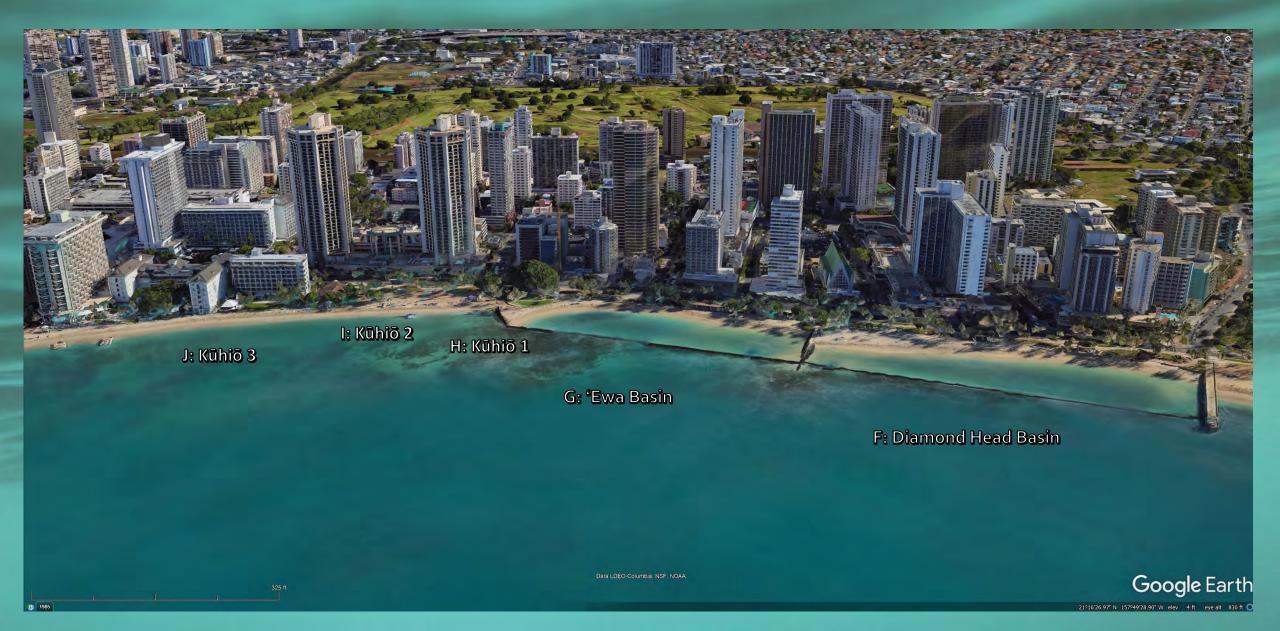


This area has a wide stable sandy beach that is bounded and stabilized by the Kapahulu Groin. There is a fair amount of sharp coral rubble offshore. The groin was built in 1951 to both hold in a proposed new beach, and to channel stormwater; some accounts state that it the location of the former Kuekaunahi stream. The beach was built between 1950 and 1957. The break that runs along the groin is popular with bodyboarders.

Tax Map Key Plat (2) 2-6-001



Kūhiō Beach and Kūhiō Beach Park



F: Kūhiō Beach Park: Diamond Head Basin





The Waikīkī Road (now Kalakaua Avenue) was built parallel to the shoreline in 1841, and a seawall was built sometime prior to 1890 to protect the road. In the 1930s break walls and groins were built to create swim basins, a dragline excavator was used to clear the basins of coral, and sand was brought in to create the beach. Today the waters are calm and shallow, and the beach is popular with families with young children. The Diamond Head side of the basin is submerged at high tide. Commercial operations have recently begun claiming beachfront areas.

G: Kūhiō Beach Park: 'Ewa Basin





The 'Ewa Basin is partially open to the sea, and the central area of the beach experiences more erosion than the Diamond Head Basin. There are strong currents near the breakwater opening. The beach park was named after Prince Kūhiō Kalaniana ole, who had his home near here.

H: Kūhiō Beach I





The transition area between the basins and the main Kūhiō Beach is not pedestrian friendly. Parts of the groin that separate the two areas have collapsed, and walkers need to climb rocks or detour around to cross between the areas. The sandbag stub groin was built in 2019 to replace several small concrete groins in the area, in order to minimize severe and localized erosion along the groin.

I: Kūhiō Beach II





The State partnered with private parties to nourish Kūhiō Beach in 2012 and 2021. Two years after the project the beach remains stable; a survey in April 2022 showed that it had gained an average of 37.1 feet in width, with an increase of approximately 65,000 square feet. Additional sand was brought inshore during a large south swell in July 2022. Currently the beach is dominated by commercial vendors, and little public space remains. The off-shore sand bar currently extends close to the Canoes surf break.

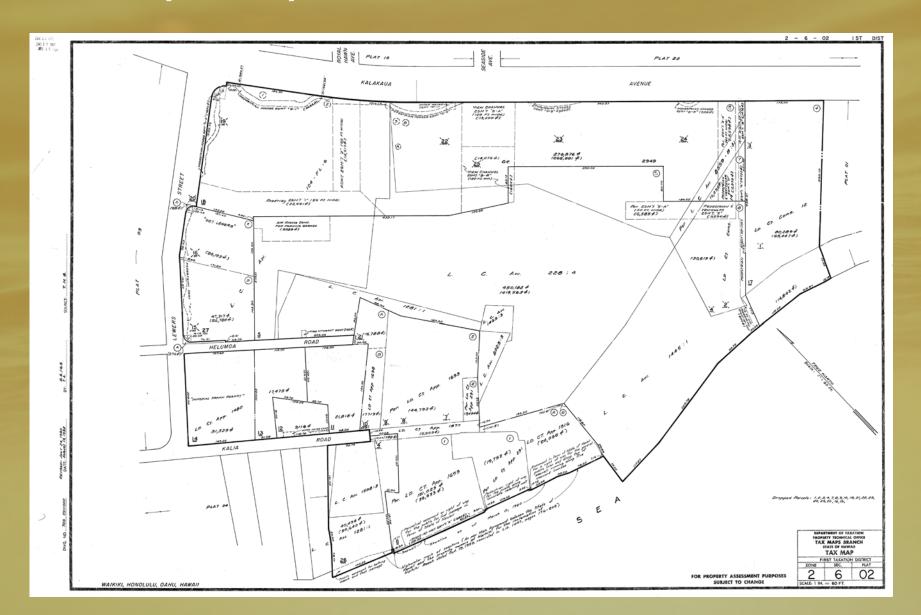
J: Kūhiō Beach III



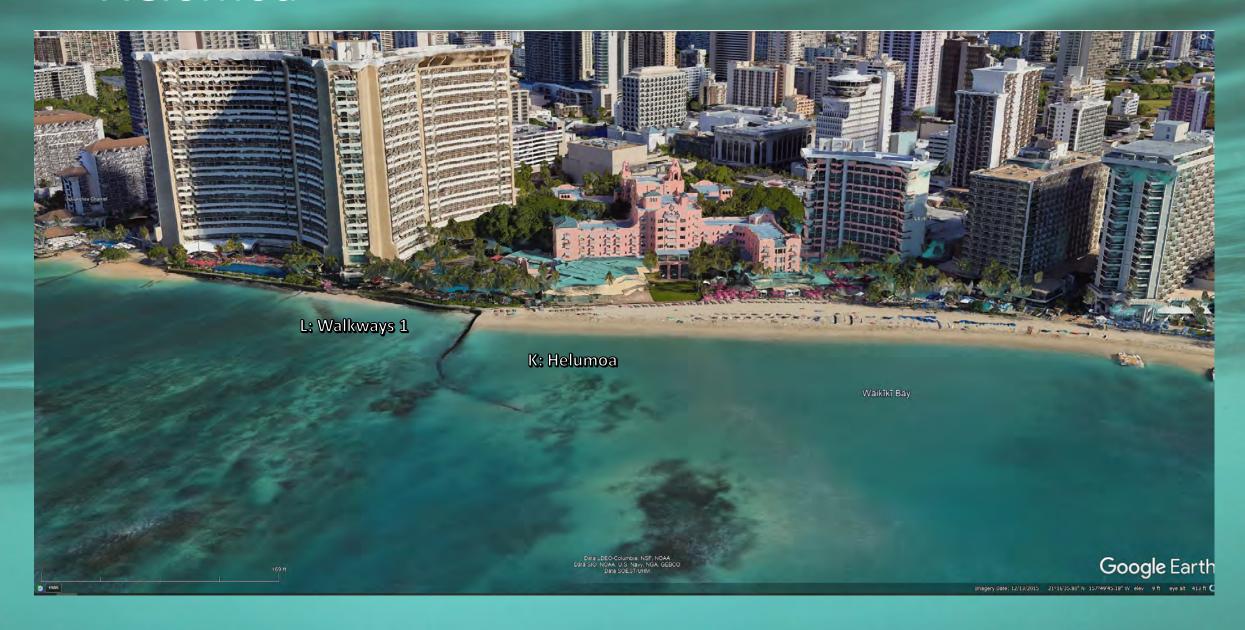


The beach fronting the Moana Surfrider is the only section free of commercial vendors in this stretch of Waikīkī. The beach remains wide after nourishment. Paddling regattas are held here during the summer; in recent years the Diamond-Head race lanes have occasionally been closed due to the shallow sand bar offshore.

Tax Map Key Plat (2) 2-6-002



Helumoa



K: Helumoa





Kamehameha's army landed along this shoreline in 1795, and after the battle of Nu'uanu he transferred his capital from Lahaina to Helumoa. Helumoa remained the capitol of the kingdom until 1809, when it was moved to Kou (Honolulu). The beach is wide and stable, with a mix of commercial operations and open space for the public. Sand is accumulating along the Royal Hawaiian Groin, rebuilt in 2020, and a shallow sand bar extends offshore.

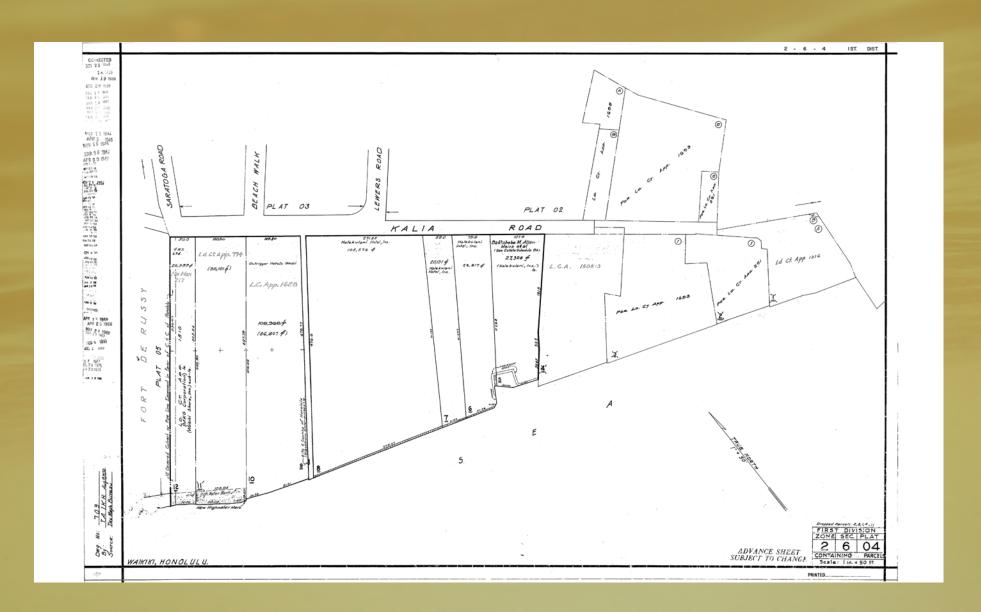
L: Walkways I



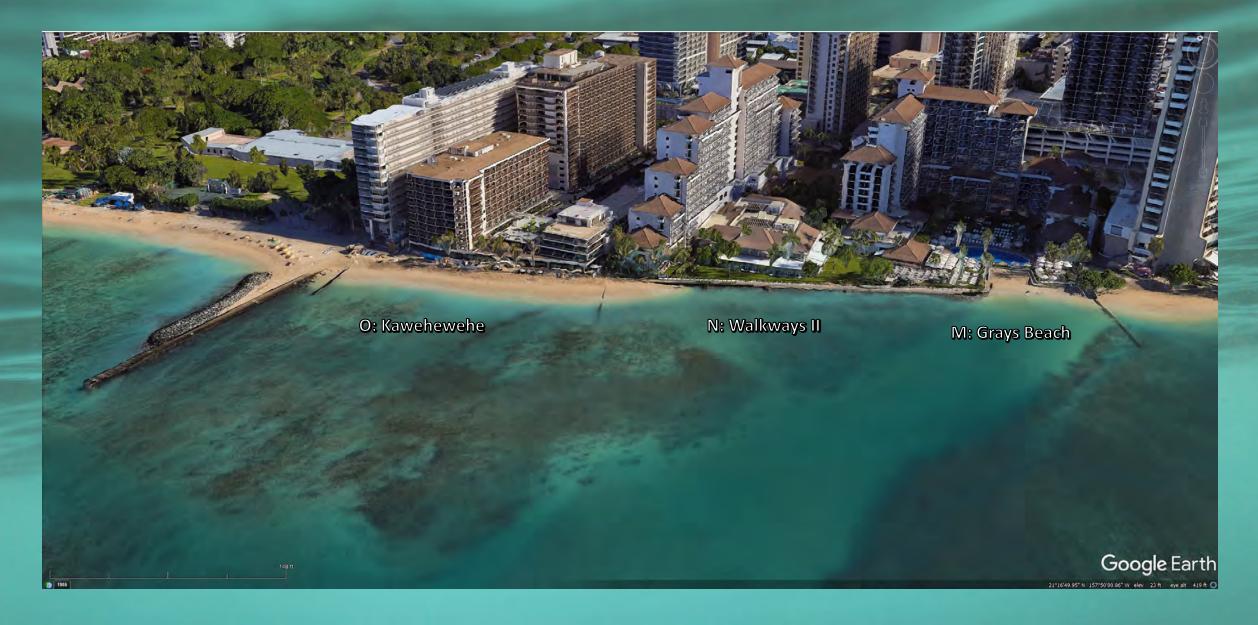


The seawall fronting the properties here are on private land. There are easements in favor of the State of Hawai'i for a pedestrian right-of-way along the tops of the seawall. The walkway was closed due to structural damage in 2008, and pedestrians are currently routed through the hotels.

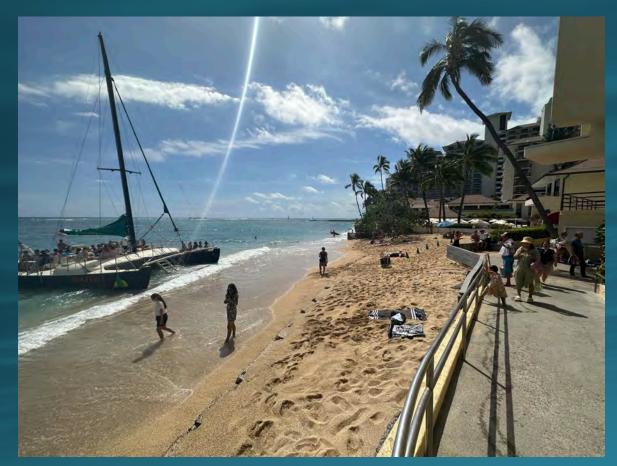
Tax Map Key Plat (2) 2-6-004



Kawehewehe



M: Gray's Beach





There are two small pocket beach between the Sheraton and Halekūlani hotels. The size of the beaches is variable; at times they each run along 100 to 125 feet of shoreline, while at other times they are completely submerged.

N: Walkways II





The walkway fronting the Halekūlani and Outrigger hotels is in a state of disrepair, although it is still frequently used by pedestrians. There are no alternate routes through the hotel properties to reach Fort DeRussy. The first seawalls in Waikīkī were built here in the 1890s and 1900s in response to changing currents and increased erosion, perhaps due to the dredging of the Halekūlani Channel. There are remnants of eight small groins that were once placed here to stabilize the beach.

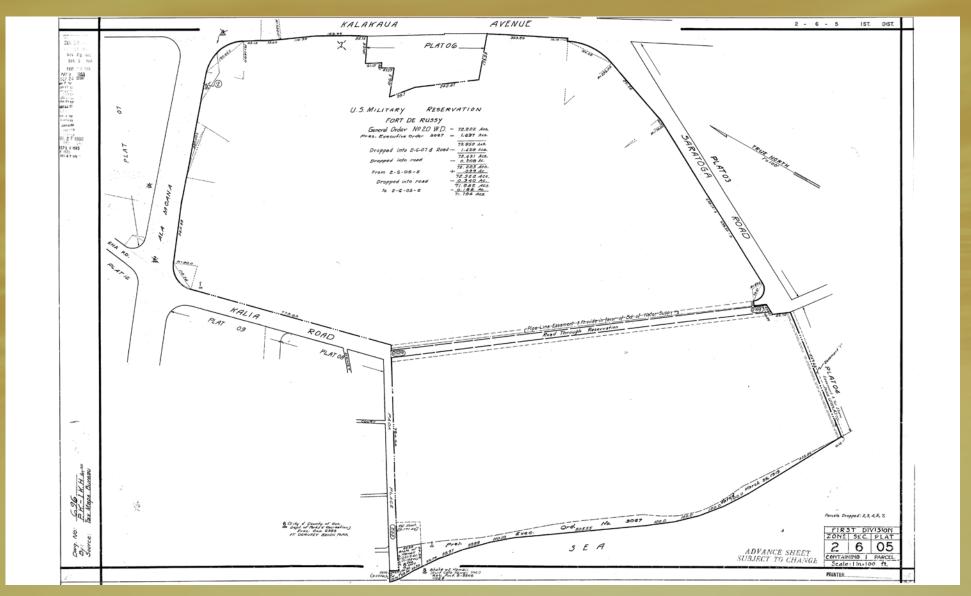
O: Kawehewehe



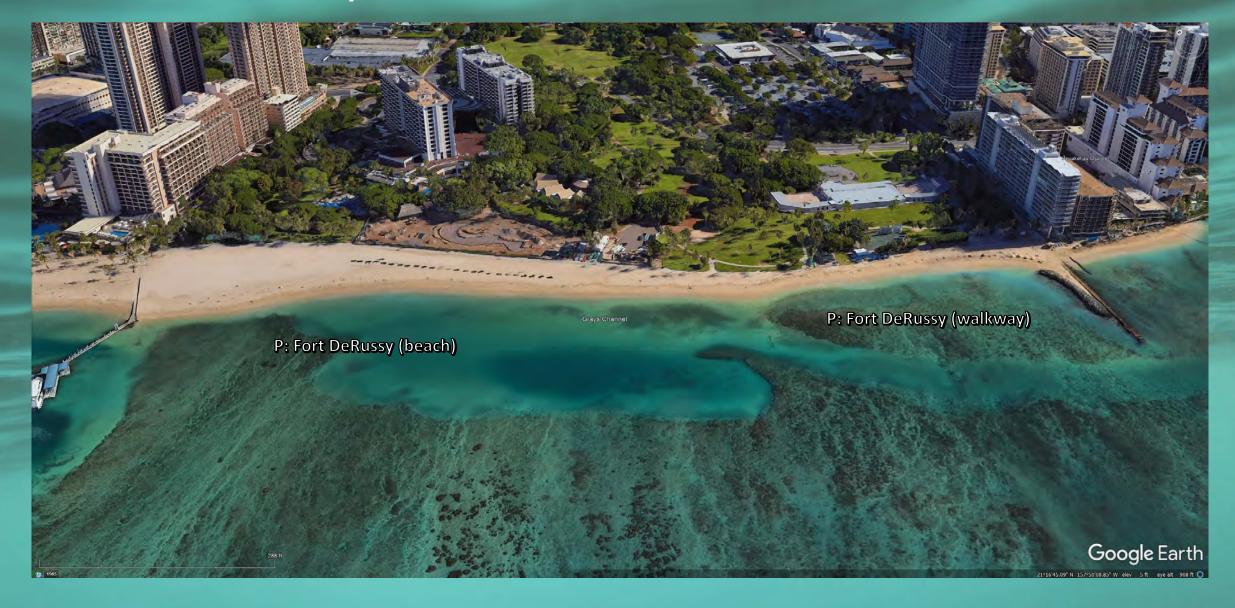


The waters of Kawehewehe is a spot for physical and emotional healing for native Hawaiians, and some practitioners still gather limu kālā and practice purification rituals here. Today this beach sector has experienced severe erosion, and in some seasons the waves break against the hotels. The coconut trees that formerly fronted the private properties have been removed, though the stumps remain. Commercial operations occupy the limited beach area.

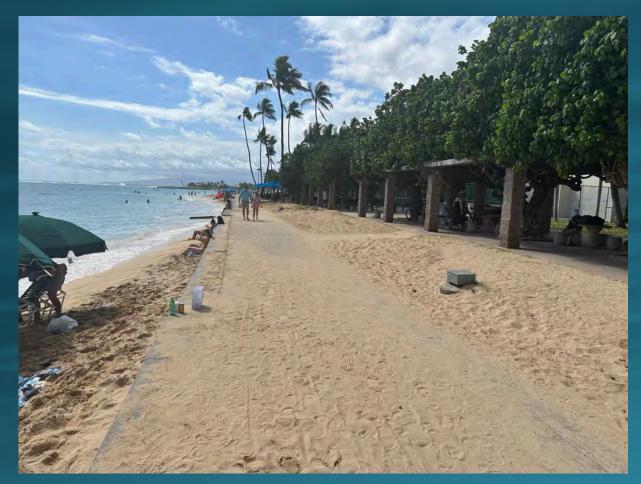
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Fort DeRussy



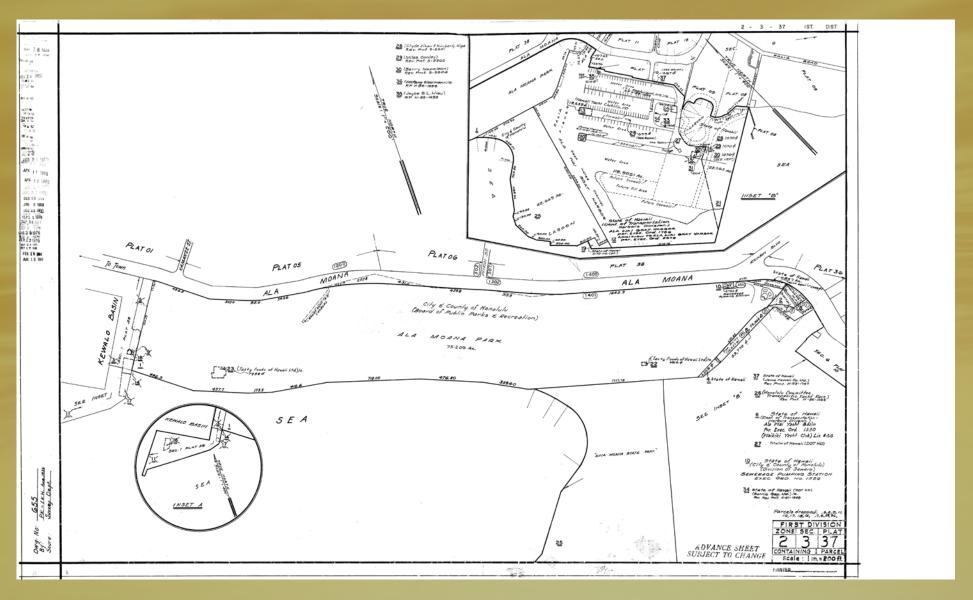
P: Fort DeRussy



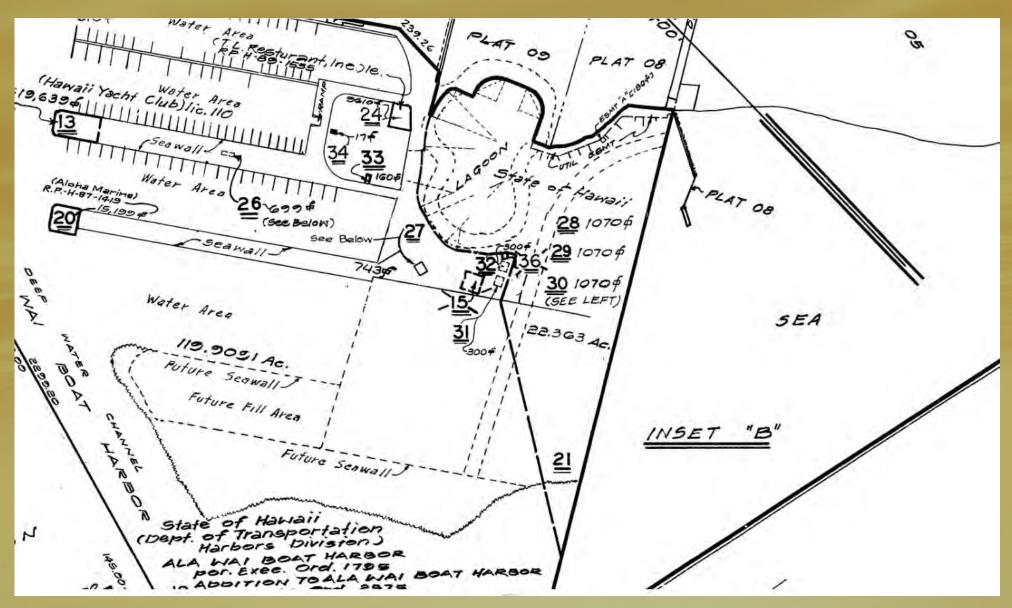


The Diamond Head-side of Fort DeRussy beach has eroded up to the seawall lining the sidewalk, and piles of sand frequently accumulate mauka of the sidewalk after high tides. Commercial activity here occurs closer to the sidewalk than the shoreline. The offshore area was extensively dredged in the 1910s and 1920s to fill in the area's wetlands, and there is still coral rubble in the nearshore waters. The beach fronting the Hale Koa hotel is the widest in Waikīkī.

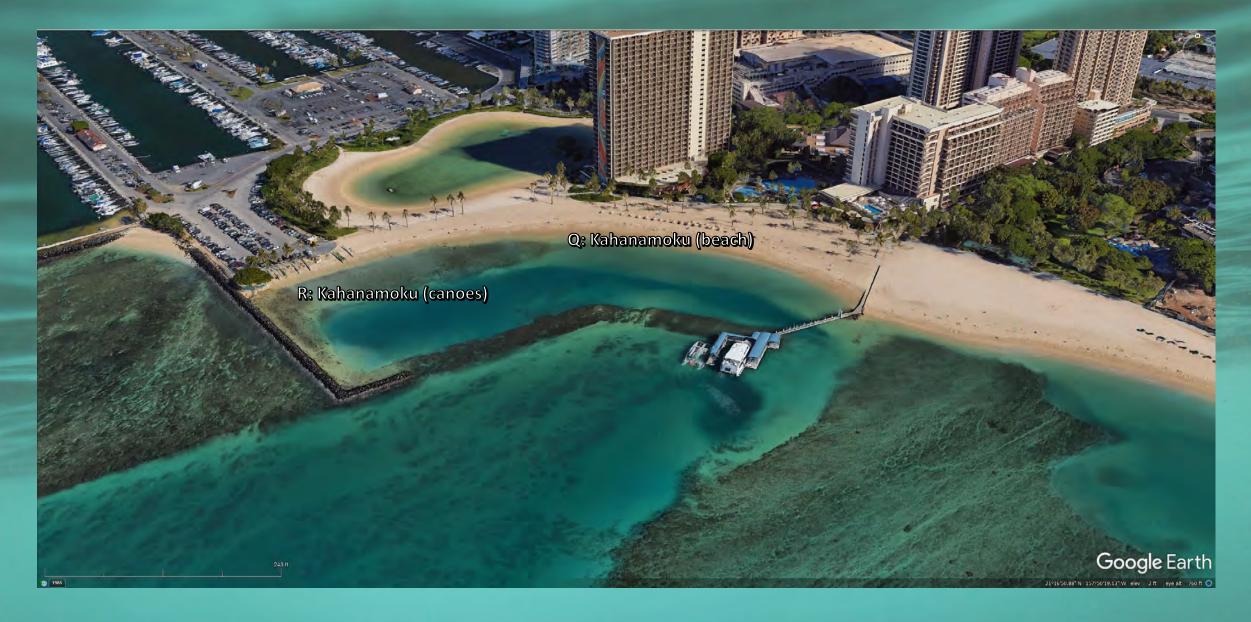
Tax Map Key Plat (2) 2-3-037



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Duke Kahanamoku Beach



Q: Duke Kahanamoku Beach





The sand at Duke Kahanamoku is more compact than at other sites. The Moloka'i Hoe and Nā Wāhine O Kei Kai long-distance canoe races finish here. Breakwaters offshore form a protected swimming area. The inland lagoon was built by Henry Kaiser in 1955 or 1956. It was the subject of a littoral rights exchange with the Territorial government, and is currently owned by the State. Hilton Hawaiian Village retains rights to use and maintain the lagoon.

R: Duke Kahanamoku Beach II





The western-most end of Duke Kahanamoku Beach is not maintained, and is a mix of sand, rock, and coral rubble. The Hilton Hawaiian Village Friday night fireworks are launched from here. This is the home beach of the 'Ānuenue Canoe Club.

Historic Beach Nourishment Projects in Waikīkī

•	1939	Kūhiō Beach	7,000 yds ³
•	1951-1957	Kūhiō, Queen's Surf, Kapiʿolani	130,000-160,000 yds ³
•	1959	Kūhiō Beach	19,000 yds ³
•	1965	Outrigger Canoe Club	6,000 yds ³
•	1970	Fort DeRussy	82,000 yds ³
•	1972	Kūhiō Beach	12,000 yds ³
•	1975	Fort DeRussy	16,000 yds ³
•	2003	Kūhiō Beach	1,400 yds ³
•	2007	Kūhiō Beach	10,000 yds ³
•	2012	Waikīkī Beach	24,000 yds ³
•	2021	Waikīkī Beach	20,000 yds ³

Conservation District Use Permits

· .	1973	CDUP 0450	"Beach restoration work"	US Army Co	rps of Engineers	Kapahulu Storm Dr	rain to Elks Club
•	1973	CDUP 0467	"Extension of Ewa groin, redistribution	n of sand"	Division of Land Management	& Harbors Division	Kūhiō Beach
•	1974	CDUP 0530	"Shore protection and restoration"		Division of Land Management	& Harbors Division	Kūhiō Beach
•	1978	CDUP 1073	"Government facility use" (storm drain	n)	US Army Corps of Engineers		Fort DeRussy
•	1983	CDUP 1477	"Kalia Road relief drain project"	C&C Depart	tment of Public Works	Kalia Road	
•	2013	CDUP 2013	"Repair of seawall"	C&C Depart	tment of Parks and Recreation	Queen Kapiʻolani I	Park
•	1997	CDUP 2794	"Hilton Lagoon project"	Hilton Hawa	niian Village	Duke Kahanamoku	Lagoon
**	1998	CDUP 2874	"Construction of two groins"	C&C Building	g Department	Natatorium	
•	2006	CDUP 3297	"Duke Kahanamoku Lagoon restoratio	n project"	Hilton Hawaiian Village	Duke Kahanamoku	Lagoon
•	2010	CDUP 3558	"Waikiki Beach Maintenance Project"		Office of Conservation and Coa	stal Lands	Waikīkī Beach
	2017	CDUP 3784	"Royal Hawaiian Groin improvement p	oroject"	Department of Land and Natur	al Resources	Royal Hawaiian Groin
•	2020 SS	BN OA-19-04	"Kūhiō stub groin and sand backpassi	ng"	Office of Conservation and Coa	astal Lands	Kūhiō Beach
	2021	CDUP 3867	"Waikiki seawall mitigative improvem	ent project"	C&C Department of Design and	l Construction	Queen's Surf Beach

Copies of these and other permits can be found at dlnr.hawaii.gov/occl/waikiki