

# 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

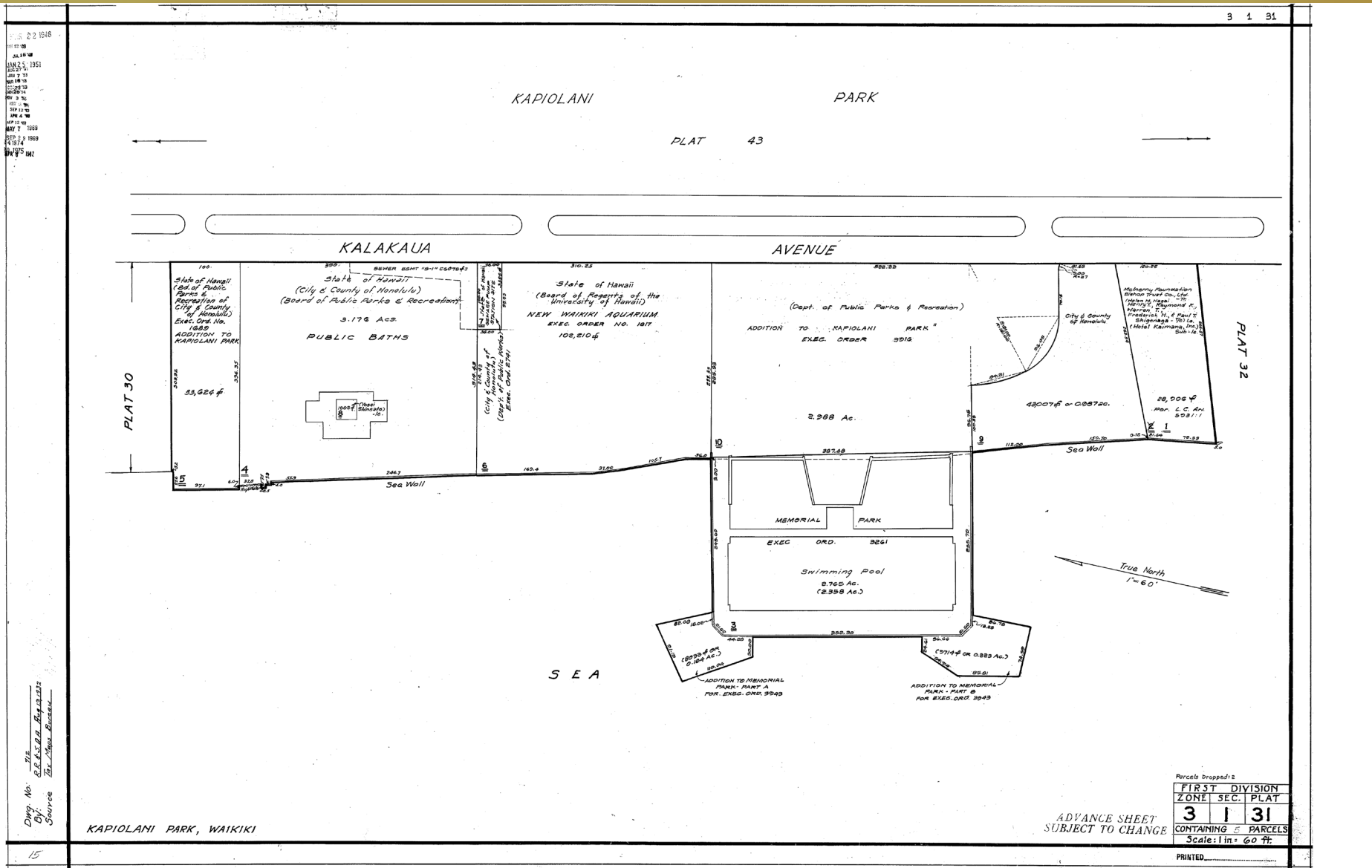
High tide: 6:51 pm, 1.95 ft

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



C: Former Public Baths

B: Aquarium Walkway

A: Kaimana Beach

198 ft

Data USGS

Google Earth

21°15'54.69" N 157°49'19.46" W elev 1 ft eye alt 542 ft

# 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



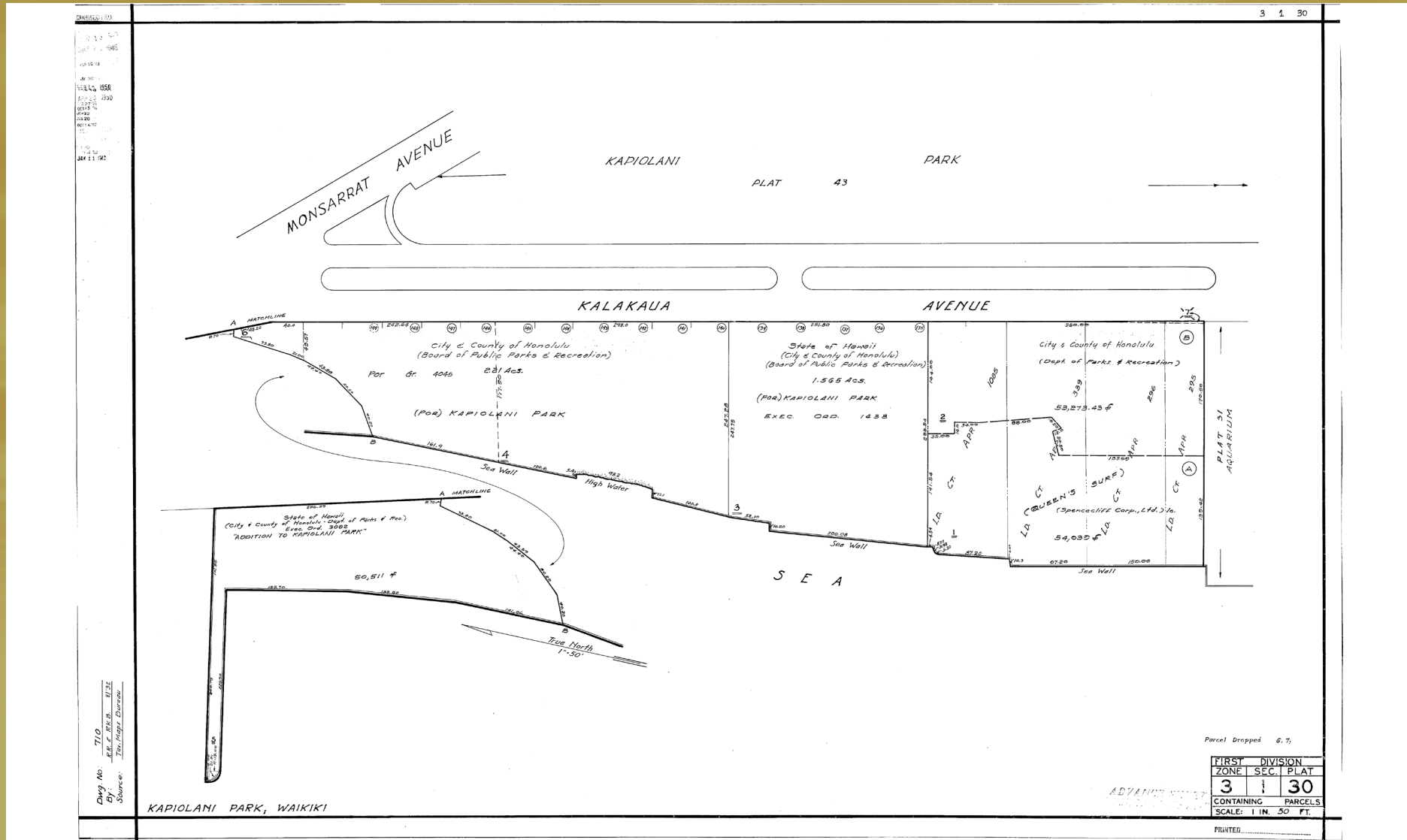
There is a shallow reef flat offshore extending approximately 35 yards, then a channel that was dredged in the 1930s to create a swimming basin. A narrow beach has formed fronting the seawall. The beach appears some years, and disappears other years. Parts of the seawall are failing, and the walkway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



E: Walls

D: Queen's Surf Beach

Data LDEO-Columbia, NSF, NOAA  
Data SOEST/UHM  
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Google Earth

21°16'09.77" N 157°49'22.08" W elev 35 ft eye alt 507 ft

# D: Queen's Surf Beach



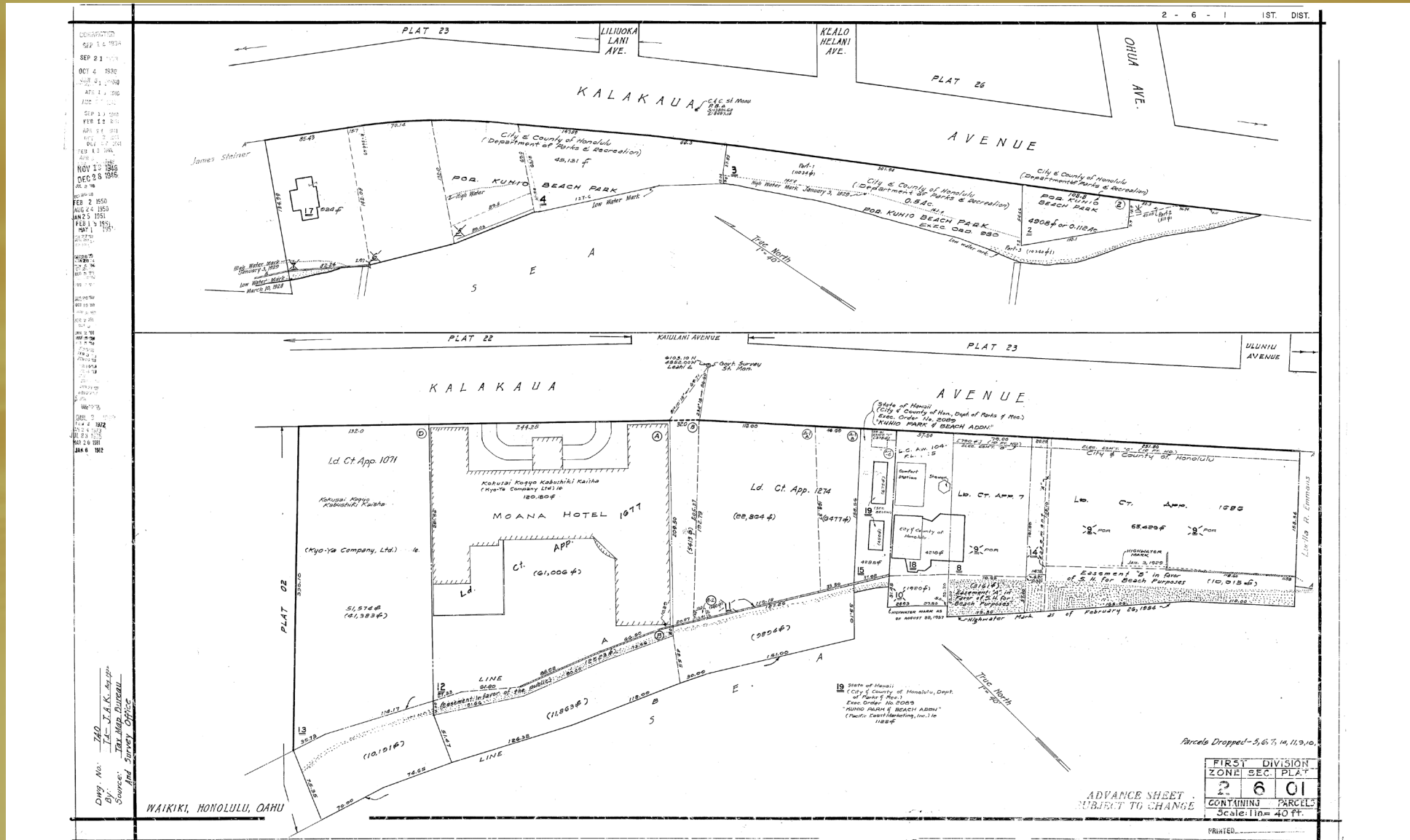
Queen's Surf Beach was named after Queen Kapi'olani, who had a residence, Paoakalani, here. It was the site of Queen's Surf Nightclub after WWII, and in 1971 the City took the property in order to expand Kapi'olani Park. At that time the beach was 200 feet wide. The beach was a popular gathering spot for O'ahu's LGTBO 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



J: Kūhiō 3

I: Kūhiō 2

H: Kūhiō 1

G: 'Ewa Basin

F: Diamond Head Basin

Data LDEO-Columbia, NSF, NOAA

Google Earth

21°16'26.97" N 157°49'28.90" W elev 4 ft eye alt 830 ft

325 ft

1985

# 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



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\$125 ea Semi-Private (max 3,1)  
\$99 ea Group (4+)

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• This Beach Stand is a public facility, therefore, the sales person is required to give you a receipt •  
• All rentals are final - No refunds or prorated rentals •  
• The City will not be responsible for items left in the lockers during and after work hours •

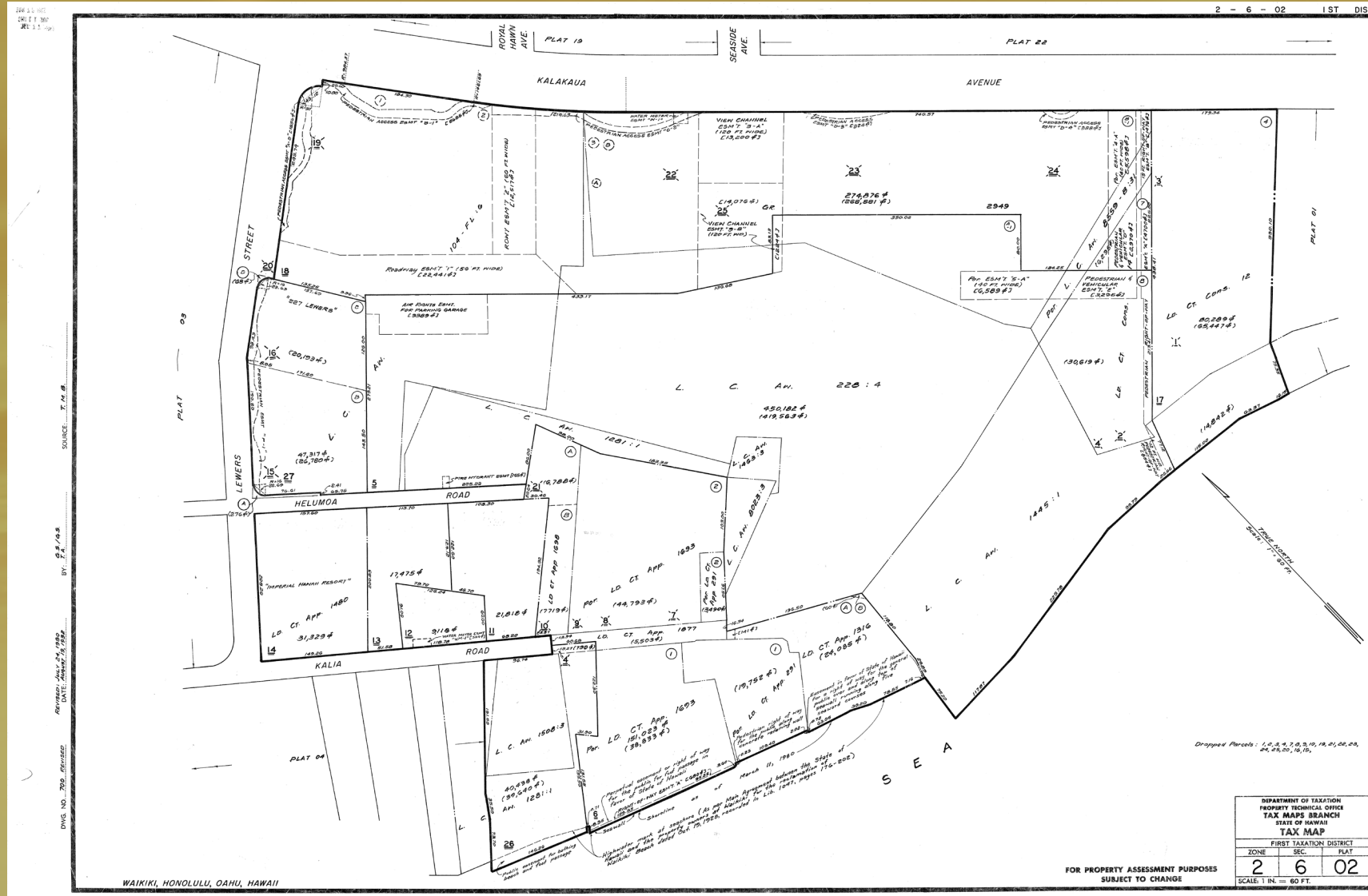
The State partnered with private parties to nourish Kūhiō Beach in 2012 and 2021. Two years after the project the beach remains stable; a survey in April 2022 showed that it had gained an average of 37.1 feet in width, with an increase of approximately 65,000 square feet. Additional sand was brought 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



L: Walkways 1

K: Helumoa

Waikiki Bay

169 ft

Data LDEO/Columbia, NSF, NOAA  
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
Data SOEST/UHM

Google Earth

Imagery Date: 12/13/2015 21°16'35.80" N 157°49'45.18" W elev 9 ft eye alt 413 ft C

# K: Helumoa



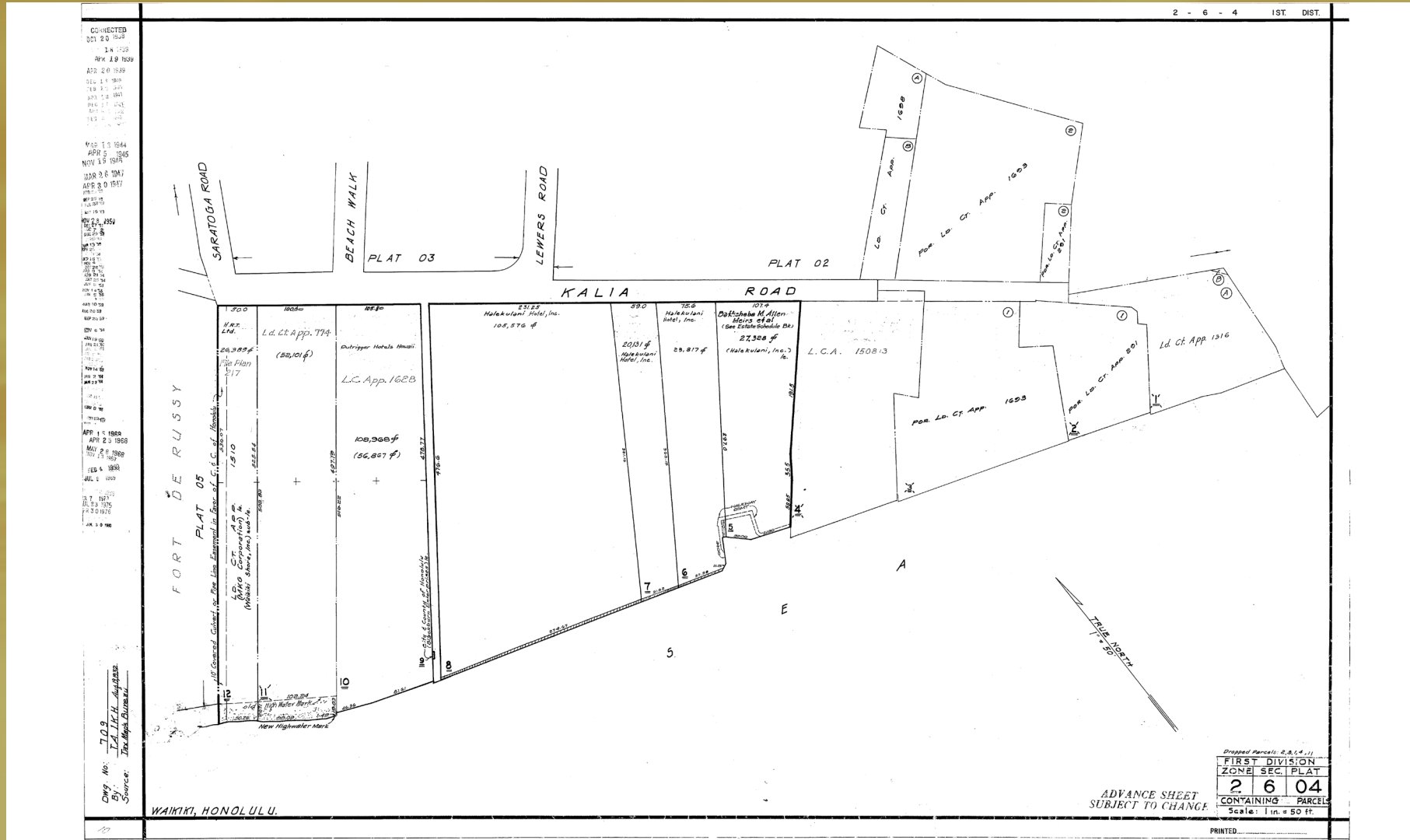
Kamehameha's army landed along this shoreline in 1795, and after the battle of Nu'uaniu he transferred his capital from Lahaina to Helumoa. Helumoa remained the capitol of the kingdom until 1809, when it was moved to Kou (Honolulu). The beach is wide and stable, with a mix of commercial operations and 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

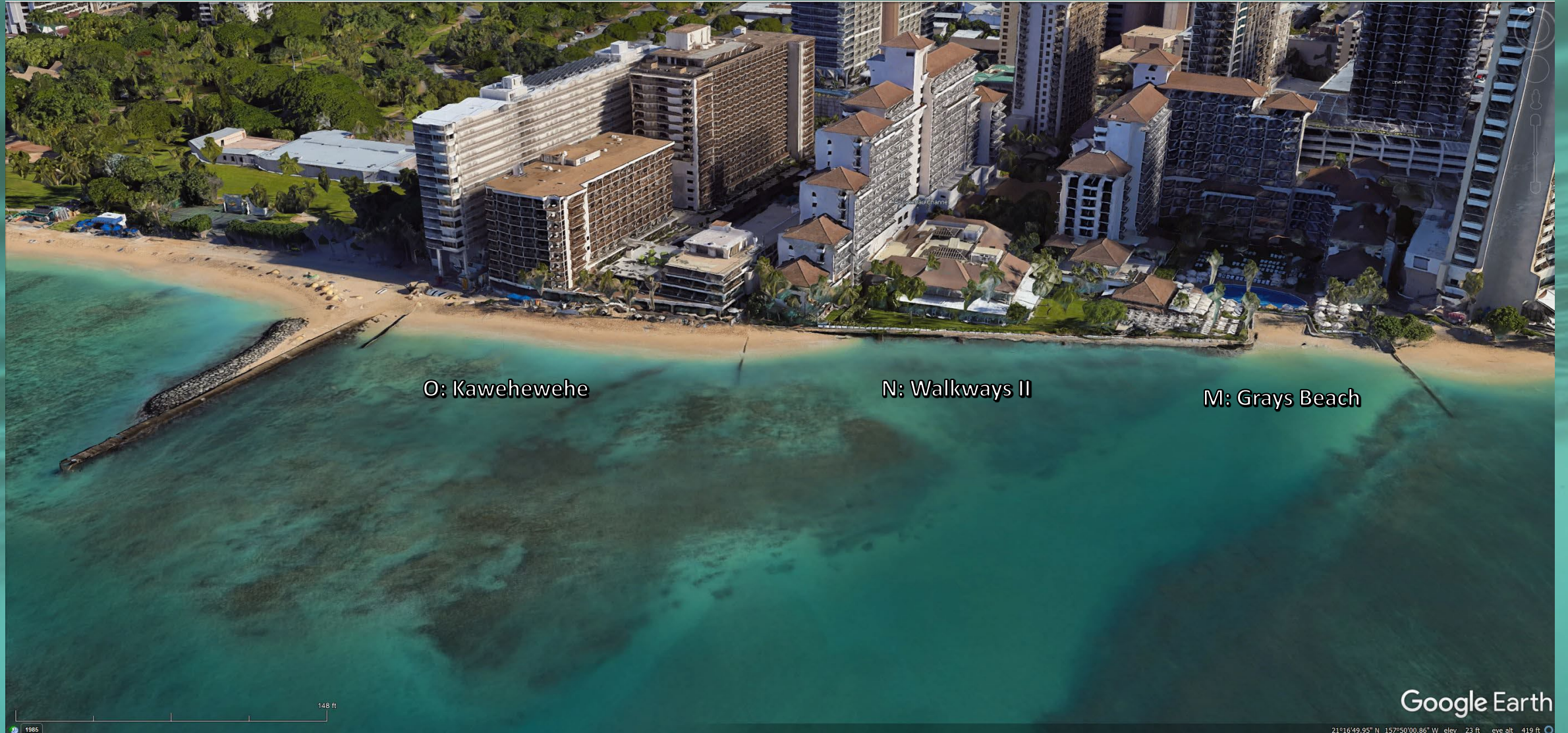


The seawall fronting the properties here are on private land. There are easements in favor of the State of Hawai'i for a pedestrian right-of-way along the tops of the seawall. The walkway was closed due to structural damage in 2008, and pedestrians are currently routed through the hotels.

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



# Kawehewehe



O: Kawehewehe

N: Walkways II

M: Grays Beach

Google Earth

21°16'49.95" N 157°50'00.86" W elev 23 ft eye alt 419 ft

148 ft

1985



# 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



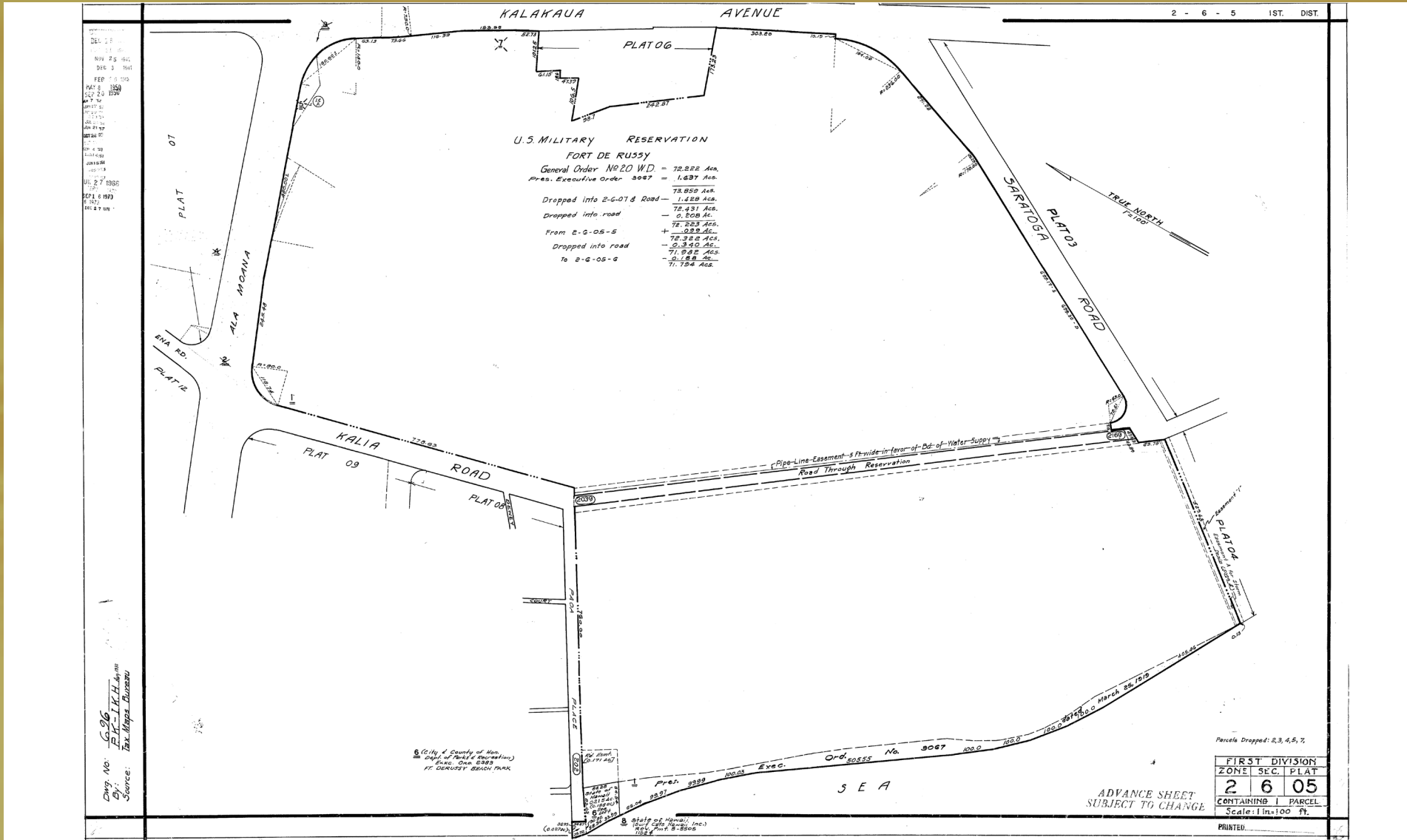
The walkway fronting the Halekūlani and Outrigger hotels is in a state of disrepair, although it is still frequently used by pedestrians. There are no alternate routes through the hotel properties to reach Fort DeRussy. The first seawalls in Waikīkī were built here in the 1890s and 1900s in response 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.

# Tax Map Key Plat (2) 2-6-005



# Fort DeRussy



P: Fort DeRussy (beach)

Grays Channel

P: Fort DeRussy (walkway)

Google Earth

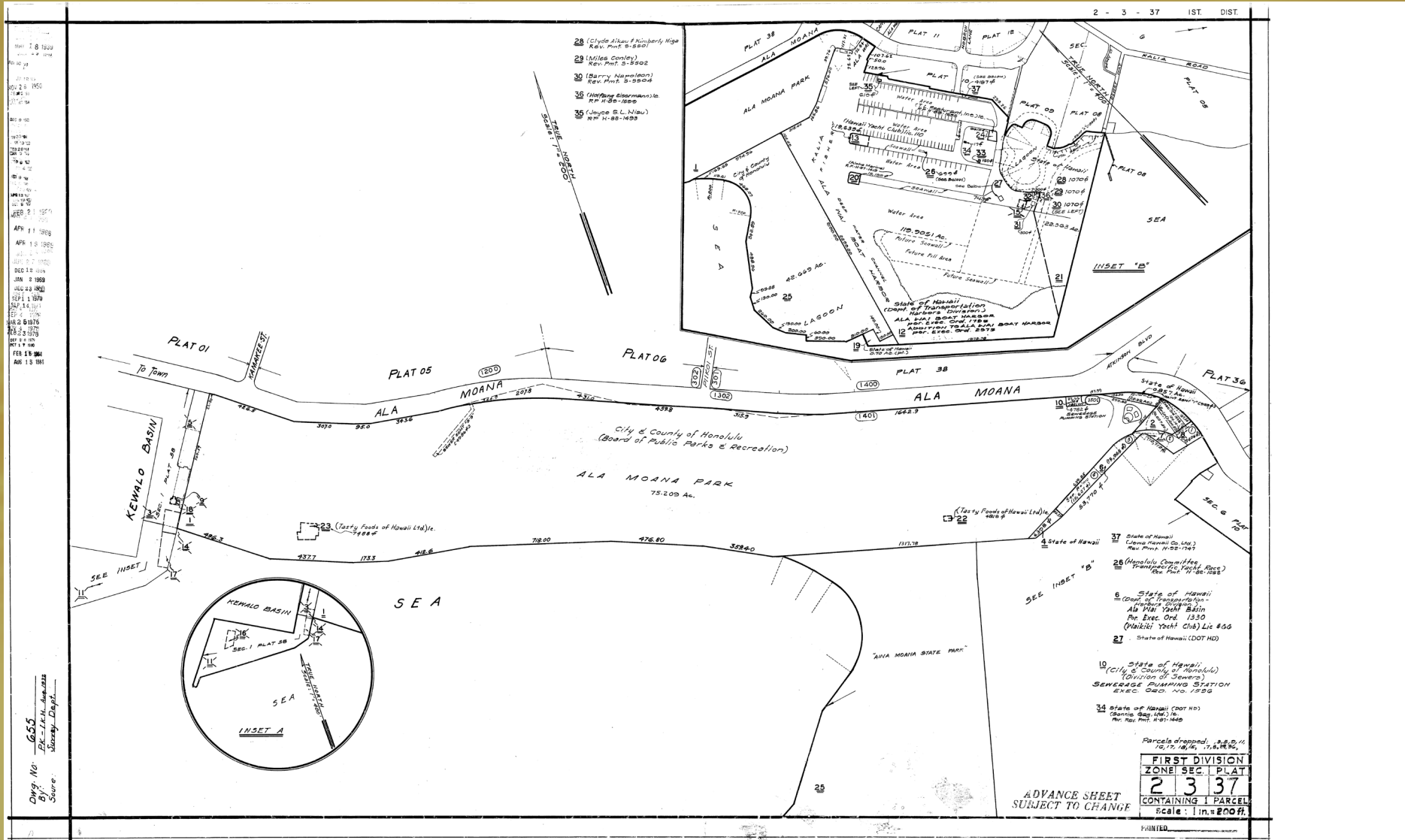
21°16'45.09" N 107°50'08.85" W elev 5 ft eye alt 908 ft

# P: Fort DeRussy

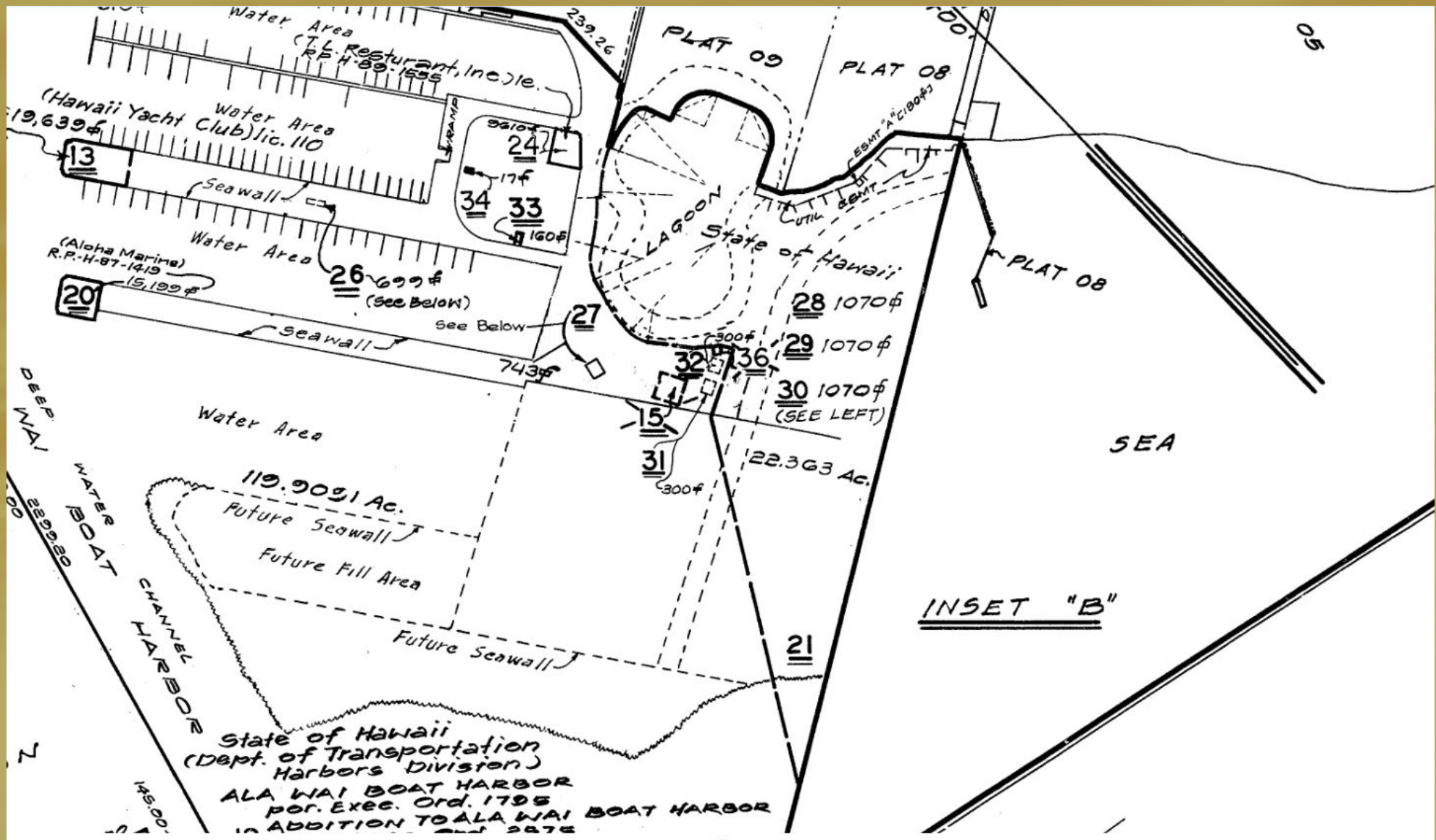


The Diamond Head-side of Fort DeRussy beach has eroded up to the seawall lining the sidewalk, and piles of sand frequently accumulate mauka of the sidewalk after high tides. Commercial activity here occurs closer to the sidewalk than the shoreline. The offshore area was extensively dredged in the 1910s 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



# Insert "B" - Tax Map Key Parcel (2) 2-3-037:021





# Duke Kahanamoku Beach



Q: Kahanamoku (beach)

R: Kahanamoku (canoes)

Google Earth

21°16'50.88" N 157°50'19.13" W elev 2 ft eye alt 760 ft

243 ft

1985

# Q: Duke Kahanamoku Beach



The sand at Duke Kahanamoku is more compact than at other sites. The Molokaʻi 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 'Ānuenu Canoe Club.

# Historic Beach Nourishment Projects in Waikīkī

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

# Conservation District Use Permits

- 1973 CDUP 0450 “Beach restoration work” US Army Corps of Engineers Kapahulu Storm Drain to Elks Club
- 1973 CDUP 0467 “Extension of Ewa groin, redistribution 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) US Army Corps of Engineers Fort DeRussy
- 1983 CDUP 1477 “Kalia Road relief drain project” C&C Department of Public Works Kalia Road
- 2013 CDUP 2013 “Repair of seawall” C&C Department of Parks and Recreation Queen Kapi‘olani Park
- 1997 CDUP 2794 “Hilton Lagoon project” Hilton Hawaiian Village Duke Kahanamoku Lagoon
- 1998 CDUP 2874 “Construction of two groins” C&C Building Department Natatorium
- 2006 CDUP 3297 “Duke Kahanamoku Lagoon restoration project” Hilton Hawaiian Village Duke Kahanamoku Lagoon
- 2010 CDUP 3558 “Waikiki Beach Maintenance Project” Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands Waikīkī Beach
- 2017 CDUP 3784 “Royal Hawaiian Groin improvement project” Department of Land and Natural Resources Royal Hawaiian Groin
- 2020 SSBN OA-19-04 "Kūhiō stub groin and sand backpassing" Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands Kūhiō Beach
- 2021 CDUP 3867 “Waikiki seawall mitigative improvement project” C&C Department of Design and Construction Queen’s Surf Beach

**Copies of these and other permits can be found at [dlnr.hawaii.gov/occl/waikiki](https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/occl/waikiki)**