# **Public Information Meeting**

## **Hawaii Department of Transportation**

November 21, 2024

Kuhio Highway Emergency Shoreline Mitigation, Vicinity of Wailua Beach

> Wailua, Island of Kauai, State of Hawaii FEDERAL-AID Project No. ER-24(004)

Hawaii State Department of Transportation in Cooperation with the University of Hawaii at Manoa (School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology Department of Ocean and Resources Engineering)



## AGENDA

- Project Purpose & Need
- Wailua Beach Historic Shoreline Changes
- Project Plans and Scope of Work
  - Rock Revetment
  - Dune Restoration
  - Sandsaver
- Sandsaver Pilot Project
  - What is Sandsaver Technology?
- Biological Opinion
- Anticipated Permits and Clearances
- Question-and-Answer Session



## **PROJECT – PURPOSE & NEED**

- Project's purpose is to protect Kuhio
  Highway
- Wailua Beach is a dynamic environment:
  - Tradewinds and storms can influence beach shape and volume
- This erosion can cause a host of issues:
  - Reduces recreational spaces
  - Increased risk of damaging Kuhio Highway
  - Loss of beach can increase risk of flooding



#### PROJECT -PURPOSE AND NEED

- In March 2021, a major storm event resulted in large loss of beach dune area and the highway was threatened
- HDOT proposes measures to prevent such events from threatening
  - infrastructure





## WAILUA BEACH AND KUHIO HIGHWAY ARE THREATENED BY EROSION EVENTS



Wailua Beach in March 2021

#### **Wailua Beach Historic Shoreline**





- The proposed project consists of:
  - Removing damaged items
  - Replacing and installing a new revetment
  - Installing an arc of sand savers
  - Restore sand dune
  - Planting native plants





#### PLANS FOR A PORTION OF THE PROJECT AREA

- The proposed project consists of:
  - Removing damaged items
  - Replacing and installing a new revetment
  - Installing an arc of sand savers
  - Restore sand dune
  - Planting native plants





#### PLANS FOR A PORTION OF THE PROJECT AREA









- Revetments will be placed along Kuhio Highway to prevent erosion damage to the highway
- Placement of Sandsavers is intended to address flanking erosion.
  - UH is being consulted to help evaluate effectiveness and provided guidance on where to place the arc





### WHAT IS SANDSAVER TECHNOLOGY?



![](_page_10_Picture_2.jpeg)

### SANDSAVER PLANS

![](_page_11_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_11_Picture_2.jpeg)

### SANDSAVER RESULTS IN KENYA (TOP) AND GULF OF MEXICO (BOTTOM)

![](_page_12_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Picture_4.jpeg)

Photo Credits: Sandsaver.com

# SANDSAVER PILOT PROJECT

- Before installation, UH deployed six (6) Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCPs) to take measurements on the water velocity of the water column and determine the best place to install Sandsavers
- During the pilot period, we will continue to monitor and assess the effectiveness of the Sandsavers
- After the pilot period, we will assess the effectiveness of the Sandsaver and discuss next steps with community and UH consultation
- Revetment and vegetation plans are permanent

ADCP Photo Credit: HT Harvey & Associates

Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler

![](_page_13_Figure_7.jpeg)

# ANTICIPATED PERMITS AND CLEARANCES

#### • Federal

- o National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Section 106 of the National Historic
  Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA)
- o Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7
- Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of
  Transportation Act of 1966
- o Section 404 of the USACE
- o Section 401 WQC
- o Coastal Zone Management (CZM)

#### • <u>State</u>

- o Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343
- HRS Chapter 195D Conservation of Aquatic
  Life, Wildlife, and Land Plants
- o HRS Chapter 6E-8 Historic Preservation
- Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL) Conservation District Use Permit (CDUP)

#### • <u>County</u>

 County of Kauai - Special Management Area (SMA)

![](_page_14_Picture_16.jpeg)

## **BIOLOGICAL OPINION**

- HDOT consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the project
- USFWS issued a biological opinion for the Green Sea Turtle and Hawksbill Turtle (completed March 10, 2023)
  - Both species are rare at Wailua Beach
  - USFWS recommended the following mitigation measures:
    - Fencing staging areas
    - Identifying signs of turtles prior to construction, daily
    - Monitoring the Sandsaver area during operation to observe if turtles become entrapped
- The USFWS determined that the project is not likely to jeopardize turtle populations

![](_page_15_Picture_9.jpeg)

# **QUESTIONS?**

![](_page_16_Picture_1.jpeg)

# **PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION**

## HDOT PROJECT MANAGER

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#### CONSULTANT

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# MAHALO!

![](_page_17_Picture_9.jpeg)