

Hoaloha Park Adaptation Plan

Public Meeting 1 – Summary

June 13, 2024 | 5:00 PM-7:00 PM

ZOOM

Project Team Attendance:

- **County of Maui:** David Yamashita
- **SSFM:** Melissa May, Ollie Lau, Dee Eppright
- **Integral:** Dave Anning, Taylor Caster
- **Brown and Caldwell:** Fiona Van Ammers

Public Attendance: (names shown as provided on Zoom)

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| 1. Charlie Quesnel – Maui Chapter Surfrider | 11. Lee Moyers |
| 2. Dana Fulton | 12. Michelle Golberg |
| 3. Ely Spivack | 13. Monika Jost |
| 4. Erin Mukai | 14. Nancy La Joy |
| 5. Hanna Lilley – Surfrider Foundation | 15. Neda West |
| 6. Ignacio Filippini | 16. Patricia Cadiz |
| 7. Jacky Takakura | 17. Rory Frampton |
| 8. Jacob Freeman | 18. Rulan Waikiki |
| 9. Kim Vanderlaan | 19. Sharon Balidoy |
| 10. Kristin Walker | 20. Juan Guevara Jr |

Agenda

- 1) Welcome and Introductions.**
- 2) Project Overview**
 - a) About the Hoaloha Park Adaptation Plan
 - b) Plan development process (tasks/deliverables/PAC)
 - c) Project schedule
 - d) Work to date
- 3) Context –Hoaloha Park Past, Present, and Future**
 - a) Timeline
 - b) Site Context
- 4) Projected Climate Impacts, Adaptation Strategies and Tradeoffs**
 - a) Overview of anticipated climate impacts and coastal wave modeling results
 - b) Overview of site vulnerabilities
 - c) Types of adaptation strategies and tradeoffs
- 5) Site Constraints and Opportunities**
 - a) User/Agency/PAC Input
 - b) Traffic and Circulation
 - c) Infrastructure, Structures & Utilities
- 6) Toward a Vision for Hoaloha Park**
 - a) Input from PAC, draft Vision Elements/Guiding Principles
- 7) Next Steps/Ways to Stay Involved**

Meeting Notes:

The following notes summarize what transpired during the meeting as well as questions and comments that were recorded during the Zoom meeting. Mentimeter was used for polling and results are also presented.

Key: Questions (Q), Answers from the Project Team or County of Maui (A), Comments (C).

1) Introduction

After the meeting objectives and discussion of the meeting ground rules were presented, participants were asked to indicate where they were calling in from through Mentimeter.

MENTIMETER QUESTION: Where do you live? (4 total responses)

- Central Maui - 3 responses
- Upcountry – 1 response

MENTIMETER QUESTION: What is your connection to Hoaloha Park? (12 total responses)

- I Paddle There – 4 responses
- I Swim There - 0
- I Work Near There – 2 responses
- I Wingfoil There – 2 response
- I Surf There - 1
- I Fish There - 0
- I Visit The Park – 2 response
- Other – 1 response

2) Project Overview

This section reviewed the project background, impetus for doing an adaptation plan, the plan development process, project advisory committee, project schedule and work to date.

3) Site Context

This section covered the context of the site, which included the park's history starting from pre-European contact through present day, its existing uses, and future development of the area. Participants were encouraged to share their stories and memories at the project website. A site overview was presented by sharing maps of the project area.

- **Q:** First Hawaiian bank is building a new building - is there any news on what's happening to the current building?
 - **A:** I don't know if the project team was aware of that. We will look into that especially since it's right adjacent to the park.
 - **C (chat):** She is probably thinking of the remodel of the restaurant.
[after meeting note: restaurant remodel is Café O'Lei, the former Chart House site on the parcel makai of First Hawaiian Bank].

4) Projected Climate Impacts, Adaptation Strategies and Tradeoffs

This section presented the coastal wave and sea level rise (SLR) modeling, adaptation strategies, and tradeoffs.

- **Q (chat):** A wave height of 3 ft and 16 seconds was used as worse case of waves impacting the shoreline of Hoaloha. SLR = 1.1, 2.0, and 3.2ft. 3.2 is the intermediate level?
 - **A:** Those are what's called significant wave heights so that's what you see if you were reading a wave buoy, but it is not necessarily a translation of a breaking wave like for surfing.
- **Q (chat):** At some point when it is appropriate, can we discuss current issues/problems such as:
 1. There is very limited access to the beach due to the parking of the canoes blocking the beach. It is difficult to get to the beach/water when carrying boards/sails,
 2. Vessels/ships often leave port without using horns,
 3. Any plans to plant more grass? It would be wonderful to rig equipment on grass vs dirt like Kanaha has.
 - **A (chat):** Absolutely – we will be covering issues and opportunities in the next section.
- **Q (chat):** Could you explain the horizontal scale or distance?
 - **A:** On the left hand side of the map we have an elevation, if you go to where 0 feet intersects the dotted gray line, that's where the below tide is. 12 to 600 ft away from the shoreline is where the roadway is.
 - **A (chat):** The vertical relief is exaggerated to show the modeling results.
- **C (chat):** USACE is US Army Corps of Engineers.
- **Q (chat):** How much sea level rise has been recorded since 2000?
 - **A:** I don't know that number offhand. From about 1950 we've seen about 10 inches to date.
 - **C:** A recent presentation said the current rate globally is about 1.4 inches per decade, but it's accelerating.
 - **A (chat):** <https://www.pacioos.hawaii.edu/shoreline/slr-hawaii/>
 - **A (chat):** From Smithsonian Ocean: 3.4mm/year from 2016 (estimate).
- **C:** I was involved when we relocated our canoe clubs from the east side of Café O'Lei, back then it was the Chart House, and then we moved it over to the Wailuku side or the west side, which was in the '90s. Those structures were designed by a structural engineer – they're built to withstand a 17-foot tsunami or any type of flooding up to 17 ft above sea level. So, the flooding that you showed shouldn't be a concern if it's temporary flooding, well it would be a concern because we could lose equipment, but the structures themselves would be able to withstand those types of flooding events. I think the real concern would be shoreline erosion and the act of dune management or a restoration plan would make a lot of sense to slow down the erosion. Even with some erosion those structures have great foundation beams that run along the length facility as well as crosswise and beams that go down 8 ft below that, and they could withstand significant events without having to relocate them. If the shoreline is gone and under water, those structures would probably be able to stand up under water.

- **A:** Thank you for the context. It's important to understand the difference between the two models – the FEMA/Bruun model shows shoreline erosion and we use this as more of a guide. The Xbeach model is showing what would happen over a single storm period with the specific dune located at Hoaloha Park. But when we're talking about over decades and decades, we're talking about tons of these storms happening. Even if a dune is resilient at stopping impacts from one storm, we would still expect that shoreline to retreat slowly but surely over time. We can delay the inevitable shoreline erosion towards the hale structures, but I think it's relatively certain that they will need to be moved eventually. Unless we were to bring a ton of new sediment into the system somehow, from somewhere, the shoreline will retreat over time.
- **Q:** I have a question about sea walls. In Lahaina they're questioning the sea walls and they say it's not effective. So, I'm not so sure why you would suggest a sea wall?
 - **A:** To be clear we are not proposing a sea wall at Hoaloha Park. I referenced seawalls as an example to illustrate how there can be secondary impacts when you implement an adaptation measure. In the case of a sea wall, the sea wall would protect the structure, but the secondary impact would be that you could lose your beach. There are also secondary impacts when you implement anything else, whether we were to bring or do something with a dune, there could be secondary impacts. But again, we are not proposing a sea wall at Hoaloha Park. That's not consistent with what the County or the community want to see at this site.
- **Q (chat):** What about the hotels, potential sea walls, and wave impact on Hoaloha?
 - **A:** I'm reading that as hotels potentially putting up sea walls in the neighboring area. The interpretation of our current laws is that new seawalls would not be permitted in these locations. There has to be a significant public interest benefit for a sea wall to be permitted. A harbor is one potential public interest benefit but at this point, we're not aware of any sea walls being proposed on the sandy beach side.
 - **C:** I'd just like to clarify that by saying any "new" sea walls. There are revetments already within the harbor and groins within the harbor.
- **C (chat):** Concern is that there'll potentially need to be ongoing dune/vegetation restoration in order to maintain protection from storm surges.
 - **A:** Yes, that is a major takeaway, absent of any interventions that are done consistently over time, the shoreline will want to retreat and as the shoreline retreats there is an increased likelihood of flooding during storm events. Adaptation measures would require active management of the shoreline but as was identified in the vulnerability assessment that was done by the County of Maui, over a really long period of time, we're talking 2100, retreat is part of the picture. The goal of this project is to decide how the community wants to manage adaptation to sea level rise as we move towards potential retreat. There's lots we can do to push that eventual outcome further out into the future.
- **C (DPR):** Parks department has hired 2 staff people in the past year to focus on maintaining vegetation along dunes. That's one of the outcomes of our beach parks

vulnerability study. So that is a major step, that the department hired people to specifically deal with dunes.

- **Q:** What is the purpose of the groins/breakwaters that are presently existing in the harbor?
 - **A:** The major breakwaters on the outside, the one to the north is primarily to protect from storm surge from waves from impacting the harbor. The one to the west was put in place primarily to interrupt sediment transport along the shoreline so basically to stop sand flowing into the harbor and filling it up. The other groins along the hotels there, I'm less certain about. I know some of those were built during the period of WWII for military purposes, I'm not sure if they were all built due to that, but I would say either military or a combination of that and just shoreline management stabilization.
- **Q:** Do you anticipate that the breakwaters [*the outer harbor breakwaters*] would or should be enhanced (heightened)?
 - **A:** That would be under the Army Corps of Engineers, and/or State DOT Harbors. I don't anticipate reasons why they might do that. That's a hard question to answer, not sure if they would consider that.
 - **C:** We do have DOT Harbors on the project advisory committee meeting and we will be talking with them throughout the project as well.
- **Q:** Could the harbor be healthier without the breakwaters in front of the hotels?
 - **A:** It depends on what you mean by "healthy." If the breakwaters weren't there, the shoreline would erode at a faster pace and that would not be good for the hotels, it wouldn't be good for the shoreline necessarily. So no, I don't think removing those would be positive at this time.
- **C:** The area past the last breakwater is a boulder field and lacks much sand.
 - **A:** That's true, it looks like it's a remnant of an old revetment.
 - **Q:** Just to clarify, you are talking about the area to the west of the harbor? Over towards where the revetment was installed to protect the roadway?
 - **A:** No the two breakwaters that are right next to the hotels.
 - **A:** There are three groins. The purpose of those, well the purpose of any perpendicular structure is to stop some of the lateral movement of sand. The groins help stabilize the beach between the Maui Seaside Hotel and the port. If you were to take the groins out you'd get a little more of that movement of sand back and forth along the shoreline influenced by the waves that are coming in the west end of the harbor. The groins are actually helping the park a little bit at the moment and if you were to remove all of them, you'd get a little bit more of that oscillation of sand.
- **C (chat):** Would love to start planning of BUDM [beneficial use of dredging material] before next dredge cycle. Removing all that sediment seems to be a mistake.
 - **A:** Current permit for dredging Kahului Harbor requires Army Corps to dispose of that sediment offshore in an Environmental Protection Agency approved dumping area. Using the material for another use would require changing that permit, that is a slow process – it takes a couple years, so it's not something we could have done this round of dredging. It is something we could look at for the next planned dredging process. There would have to be quite a lot of testing, and there has been testing down in the past to ensure that that sediment is

similar in type (grain size, color, the physical characteristics) and that it isn't contaminated, either from biological sources or heavy metals or anything like that could cause additional issues. So there would have to be quite a lot of additional research before it could be used on shore.

MENTIMETER QUESTION: What kinds of climate impacts have you seen at Hoaloha Park? (6 total responses)

- High tide/wave flooding (from makai) - 0
- Surface flooding (from mauka) - 0
- Tsunami - 1
- Erosion – 4 responses
- Other - 1

DISCUSSION:

- **C:** I remember the early 2000's tsunami flooding across the highway but did not witness the effect on the park itself.
- **Q (chat):** When there is episodic erosion, do you think the sediment is deposited in the near shore or does it actually drain out of the harbor?
 - **A:** Tsunamis are typically low amplitude compared to storm waves (the Tohoku tsunami in 2011 was measured at 2.1m in Kahului). They have very long periods (measured in minutes), so they hold a lot of energy and go a long way inland. Storm waves move the sand offshore but not out of the harbor, which is part of the reason there is a need for episodic dredging. Most of the sand comes back onshore when the waves are smaller, but there is a net loss over time.

5) Site Constraints and Opportunities

In this section, the site constraints/key issues and opportunities were discussed, community input was also covered, as well as traffic, parking, vehicle and pedestrian access, and the existing infrastructure on the site.

DISCUSSION:

- **C (chat):** Speaking of outdoor showers, we have a program at Surfrider called OFG (Ocean Friendly Gardens) which would be an opportunity as part of the park planning. I would suggest keeping this in mind and you could contact us (Surfrider Foundation Maui Chapter) for more information about it.
- **Q (chat):** Could Parks open up access to "Second Street" to connect the park to North Puunene Avenue?
- **Q (chat):** Can the easements granted for additional parking by Maui Seaside Hotel and Akamai Motors be rescinded to provide more room for the park? Especially since there will be more housing development in the immediate area?
 - **A:** No, those easement areas are not going to be part of the park.
- **Q (chat):** The location of Second Street on that slide (#68) is very different than what Google Earth shows. Is Google Earth wrong?
 - **A:** historically there was a 2nd St (and a 1st Street) that ran through the park, so I think this may be a holdover from Google Maps or whatever map was used.

- **A:** Google Earth does some interesting things with its imagery. They stitch together kind of a blended version of up to 15 images taken from different angles, and that can result in issues where if you're looking from above you can have buildings leaning in different directions and all sorts of strange artifacts. They also pull quite a lot of information from OSM (open source mapping tool), which isn't always exactly right, sometimes it's really good, but that can be the source of some of the issues...but, other people are writing in the chat that there is actually a street there.
- **Q (from project team to participants):** Do you know if that was a vehicular connection, was that happening when First Hawaiian Bank was there? Anyone know the background on that?
 - **A:** It's still there right now, but it's gated. I think at one point they had it as a one-way. It was being used when First Hawaiian Bank was there. It's been gated for about 10yrs or so, maybe more.
 - **Q (from project team):** Did people find that made access to the park easier or was it beneficial to the park users?
 - **A:** I think more than anything it was used mainly by people getting out of the bank.
 - **C (chat):** It's makai of FHB. Would be easier access to park.
 - **C (chat):** It was just additional access to the beach access area.
- **C (chat):** After COVID the canoe clubs started reparking their canoes in front of the beach access points. Access is always blocked, could we have a relationship with the canoe clubs and paddlers so we have better access?
 - **A:** We're aware of the different user groups and that there's been some conflict as well as coordination. That's definitely something we can look to accommodate in the plan, making sure different users have access. Does anyone else have similar thoughts on access to the beach or water sports?
 - **C:** I agree that there should be an open pathway for any kind of beach user other than someone from the canoe club. To have to navigate between canoes that might be 1 to 3 feet apart from each other is difficult whether or not you are carrying additional equipment. It would be very beneficial to have an 8-10 ft wide pathway to the water.
 - **Q (from project team):** Looking at the map that shows the existing access points, between Café O Lei and the first canoe hale. Is that typically used the most by wing foilers and others?
 - **A:** It's the path I use the most.
 - **A:** Those paths always had canoes there. It wasn't because of COVID that paddlers started storing by Café O Lei. That was the same situation before the wing foilers. So, things haven't changed, that's just where the canoes have always been stored.
- **C (Chat):** High School has regattas too.

MENTIMETER QUESTION: Do you agree with the site constraints and opportunities identified?
(4 total responses)

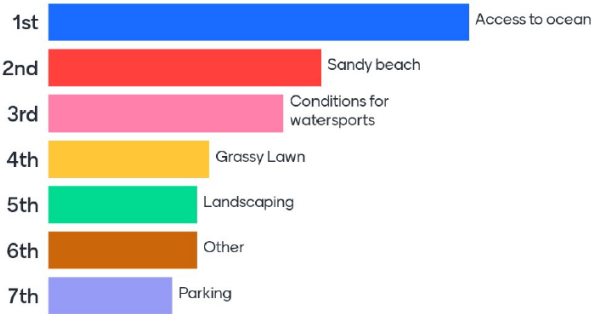
- Agree - 4
- Neutral - 0
- Disagree - 0

DISCUSSION:

- **C (chat):** A significant issue at the park is that there is no public restroom. There is one porta-potty which is filthy. Can something be done in the near term to provide access to restrooms pending the planned park improvements? Could make park more welcoming.
- **C (chat):** And access to potable water.
 - A: Spigot or hose off area?
 - Yes. And showers would be awesome.
- **C (chat):** Plans for grass??

MENTIMETER QUESTION: What are you most concerned about protecting as the site changes over time? (rank from first to last) (6 total responses)

What are you most concerned about protecting as the site changes over time? (rank from first to last)



- 1st Access to ocean
- 2nd Sandy beach
- 3rd Conditions for watersports
- 4th Grassy Lawn
- 5th Landscaping
- 6th Other (irrigation system)
- 7th Parking

DISCUSSION:

C (chat): Grass; a working irrigation system to allow for grass/lawn.

MENTIMETER QUESTION: What would you like to see added to the park? (Indicate level of support for each, scale: strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (5)) (7 total responses)

What would you like to see added to the park? (indicate level of support for each)



- Native Plants – 4.4 (average score)
- Grass – 4.4
- Trees – 4.6
- Signage and paths – 4.1
- Community Gathering Places – 3.8
- Public Restrooms – 4.3
- Public Showers – 4.1
- More asphalt parking – 2.5

DISCUSSION:

- **C (chat):** Why were the trees cut a few years back?
 - **Q (DPR):** What trees are you referring to?
 - **C:** There were trees that were makai by the parking lot, they were nice tall trees. I heard that they were taken out because the homeless people were there, and that's a rather odd answer, so I hope that was not the truth.
 - **Q (DPR):** Was that maybe 1.5-2 years ago?
 - **C:** Yes, maybe a little more.
 - **C (DPR):** DPR will try to find out more about this.
- **Q (chat):** Is there a representative from the DOT Harbors division at this meeting?
 - **A:** I don't think so, but we have a representative on our Project Advisory Committee who we can pass any questions on to.
 - **C (chat):** Reminder to them to use horns!

6) Toward A Vision for Hoaloha Park

This section of the presentation covered the PAC's input and the vision for what the park might be, going forward. There was also polling and discussion.

MENTIMETER QUESTION: One Word to Describe Hoaloha Park TODAY.
22 responses



One Word to Describe Hoaloha Park TODAY

22 responses



MENTIMETER QUESTION: Do you agree with the direction in the draft vision elements/guiding principles? (X total responses)

- Agree - 7
- Neutral - 0
- Disagree - 0

MENTIMETER QUESTION: One Word to Describe Hoaloha Park IN THE FUTURE.
16 responses



One Word to Describe Hoaloha Park IN THE FUTURE

16 responses



DISCUSSION:

- **C (chat):** Community gathering place should include fundraisers for 501(c)(3) groups that had access when that park was owned by A & B.
- **C (chat):** What does “less foil drama” mean?
- **Q (chat):** When will the recording be posted on the website? Would love to send this around.

7) Next Steps/Ways to Stay Involved

- Reminder to complete the community survey, open until the end of June. It’s a good way to provide more detailed feedback from not only park users but all the community.
- Future Public Meeting – the next meeting will be more workshopping, there will be different concepts to share. The meeting will be in the fall, will send out a notification when it’s scheduled.
- Recording of this meeting will be posted on the website along with meeting notes.
- Continue to check the project website for updates.