



14 October 2003

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Kaunakakai Harbor, Molokai, Hawaii

1. Purpose: To provide information on the subject project.
2. Points of Major Interest and Facts.

a. Kaunakakai Harbor is located on the south central coast of Molokai. The project was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1935. The local sponsor is the State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation - State Harbors Division.

b. The project consists of an entrance channel 500 feet wide and 23 feet deep; a harbor basin 1,500 feet long, 600 feet wide, and 23 feet deep. The project was completed in 1934 at a cost of \$103,200 (federal funds).

c. In March 1998, the State Department of Transportation (DOT) requested the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to investigate the poor water circulation and sediment build-up east of the causeway. The study was undertaken under the authority of Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986. Subsequently in February 2002 the DOT requested the termination of the study upon recognition of the high cost for remedial action, estimated at \$11.3M, and jurisdictional uncertainty for submerged lands between DOT and the State Department of Land and Natural Resources.

d. The project was last maintenance dredged in FY73 at a cost of \$240,700 (federal funds); total material dredged was 51,000 cubic yards. The dredged material was disposed of at an upland disposal site adjacent to the harbor.

e. The harbor was last condition surveyed in July 2003. Final bathymetry map indicates that the project depths are adequate for navigation.

3. Congressional Interest. Senator Akaka remains interested in potential improvements for the ecosystem in the harbor vicinity.