



1 March 2004

## INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Waikiki Area Erosion, Oahu, Hawaii

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

a. The Waikiki Area Erosion project was authorized under the River and Harbor Act of 1965. The goal of the project is to provide for a stable protective beach that is both publicly and environmentally acceptable. The authorized plan includes restoring and protecting approximately 10,800 feet of shoreline along Waikiki Beach from Duke Kahanamoku Beach to the Elks Club. Authorized features include the placement of sand fill to widen the average beach to widths ranging from 75 to 180 feet, constructing four new groins, appurtenant drainage facilities and modifying three existing groins. Two of the eight project reaches authorized for construction in 1965 have been implemented to date. The Fort DeRussy reach was completed in 1971 with non-appropriated military funds. Construction of the Kuhio Beach sector was completed by the State of Hawaii in 1972. Construction of the uncompleted portions of the authorized project is currently estimated at \$24,000,000.

b. The project sponsor, State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources has solicited assistance from the Hawaii delegation in the project implementation process. A study recommending Federal participation in the Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) phase was submitted to Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (HQUSACE) in November 2002. The study concluded that the project, as authorized, remains responsive to the current day needs at Waikiki Beach and is economically justified based on estimated National Economic Development (NED) benefits exceeding project costs. The economic justification was based on recreation benefits, which is considered a low administration budget priority, and visitor expenditures which are not recognized as a NED benefits.

c. The issue of the Waikiki Area Erosion project being recreation based (low administration budget priority) was addressed in the Fiscal Year 2004 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, *“Provided further, that any recommendations for a National Economic Development Plan shall be accepted notwithstanding the extent of recreation benefits supporting the project features, in view of the fact that recreation is extremely important in sustaining and increasing the economic well-being of the State of Hawaii and the nation.”* In December 2004, HQUSACE directed the Honolulu District to initiate the PED phase. Due to its designation as a low administration priority, Congressional add funds will be required for the remainder of the project implementation process.

3. Congressional Interest. Senator Daniel Inouye and Representative Neil Abercrombie strongly supports this project. The Congressional delegation strongly supports improvements to Waikiki Beach for the purpose of enhancing the economic well being of the State of Hawaii.