



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Honolulu District

KAUNAKAKAI SMALL BOAT HARBOR MAINTENANCE DREDGE PROJECT
Community Collaboration Workshop
Tuesday, July 12, 2022, 3-5 p.m. HST
OHA Kūlana 'Ōiwi Conference Room, Kaunakakai, HI

Following is a list of Questions posed by the community and Responses provided by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers- Honolulu District during the Community Collaboration Workshop.

What is dredging?

Dredging is the excavation of material from a water environment. Typical reasons for dredging include improvement of existing water features or reshaping of land and water features to alter drainage, navigability, and commercial use.

The intent of this project is to do maintenance dredging of Kaunakakai Harbor and remove sand and sediment that has accumulated in the harbor over time and return the harbor to its original authorized depth of (-)23 feet. No new digging/excavation deeper than the authorized depth will be done. Work will be conducted within the Federal limits of the harbor.

Where will the dredged material be disposed of at?

The dredged material will be disposed offshore at a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated dredged material disposal site near Kahului, Maui. The Kahului Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) is located about 5.5 miles offshore of Kahului, Maui and approximately 38 miles from Kaunakakai Harbor by water. The site has a radius of 3,000 feet and is 1100-1200 feet deep. Each county in Hawaii has an offshore disposal site that is designated for disposal of dredged material. EPA requires that the material must go through physical, chemical, and biological testing prior to approving disposal at the ODMDS. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) tested the material to be dredged in Kaunakakai Harbor in 2020.

Will the harbor be closed off to the public?

No. The harbor will not be closed off and operations will run as normal as possible. USACE will be working local sponsor, State Department of Transportation (DOT) Harbors and also the U.S. Coast Guard to ensure there are minimal impacts to harbor operations. Active work area will be small enough that vessels can go around, as necessary.

Will you be coordinating and communicating with barge companies that come in twice a week?

Yes. We will be communicating with DOT Harbors and harbor users, to include barge companies, to ensure minimal impacts to operations.

Will the community be notified when work will start?

Yes. Once the contractor has developed their schedule, USACE and our contractor will coordinate the dredge schedule directly with State Harbors and USCG to provide notice to mariners through normal channels. Note that the contractor will frequently review and update the schedule once maintenance dredging is underway because it is dependent on many factors. USACE, our Contractor, State Harbors and USCG will be in constant communication to ensure all parties are updated, informed, and issues are resolved in a timely manner.

Does the barge have a GPS so it can be monitored that it is going to the right disposal site?

Yes. The contractor is required to install industry standard Dredge Quality Monitoring instrumentation on the dredge barge to track many factors including positioning to/from dredging operations to/from the ODMDS. Monitoring is required by USACE and EPA. The instrumentation senses any leaks or mis-dumps in real time. The contractor must submit daily tracking reports to USACE and monthly reports to EPA.

How long will the maintenance dredging project take?

The period of performance for this maintenance dredging project at both Kaunakakai Harbor and Kahului Harbor is 18 months, where all work associated with this construction contract must be completed at both project sites. The physical work at Kaunakakai Harbor will be dependent upon the contractor's schedule. Approximately 800-1200 cubic yards of sediment would be removed per shift for a total of roughly 31,000 cubic yards.

The last time the harbor was maintenance dredged was in 1973. How much was removed and how long did that take?

From the time the harbor was constructed until it was first dredged in 1973, 51,000 cubic yards of mud had accumulated and was removed. There is no record available on how long the work took in 1973.

Will you need to remove about the same amount of material?

No. Only 31,000 cubic yards of material has accumulated since the 1973.

Is there a reason why you're only doing the cleanup and not doing the deeper dredging?

Yes. Funding being provided is authorized for maintenance purposes only. As such, this project will not be expanding or deepening the existing harbor.

Do you know where the source of the material is from?

No. The source is not typically identified for dredging projects. For dredging, typically a survey is done to identify depths and accumulated sediment is monitored to identify the appropriate time to dredge. Sediment is then characterized to ensure suitability of offshore versus upland disposal. Other USACE programs such as Regional Sediment Management (RSM). Watershed Planning or Planning Assistance to States (PAS) may investigate the source of material accumulated in the harbor.

It's been about 50 years since the last maintenance dredging; do you expect more routine maintenance?

No. USACE routinely surveys the federal harbors to monitor sediment build up and depths. The rate of sediment accumulation at this harbor does not indicate more frequent maintenance dredging is necessary.

Is there an alternative disposal site on land? The County spends thousands of dollars sourcing landfill capping material. Could dredged material be used as a landfill cap?

An alternative upland disposal site can be considered; however, for this dredge cycle, no request was received for any alternative disposal option. USACE follows the Federal Standard that requires the least cost, environmentally acceptable disposal option. Ocean disposal meets the Federal Standard and is fully federally funded. Any disposal option above the Federal Standard would be paid by the government agency. To be considered, a request would be made by a government agency to USACE, analysis for suitability would be performed and government agency would be responsible to fund the effort.

Are there any alternatives other than using a clamshell bucket dredge, like a vacuum suction?

Yes. Several alternative maintenance dredging techniques were considered for Kaunakakai Harbor. This includes hopper dredge, hydraulic pump dredge and mechanical dredging. A hopper dredge is not feasible at this harbor due to the shallow depths and limited size of the harbor. A hydraulic pump dredge is appropriate when pursuing beach nourishment in conjunction with maintenance dredging, as is commonly conducted along the East Coast of mainland United States and accordingly would not be appropriate at Kaunakakai Harbor where we are proposing ocean disposal. Mechanical maintenance dredging using a clamshell bucket is the most precise and suitable dredging technique for Kaunakakai Harbor.

Do you expect to remove or relocate coral?

No. We will only be working within the Federal limits of the project. Based on a recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) survey, there is no coral in the federal channel or to be directly impacted by the maintenance dredging.

Is there any species inhabiting the mud that would be impacted?

Yes. However, in coordination with the federal resource agencies, no species of concern occur in the accumulated sediments that would be permanently impacted. USACE anticipates that the surrounding sediments feature similar biota and would readily recolonize the remaining sediments upon completion of the maintenance dredging. We anticipate mobile species will be able to vacate the area.

How will the dredging be limited to the federal channel? We are concerned with the proximity to the west coral reef adjacent to the federal channel.

The dredges have high tech, high precision geo-positioning systems onboard to ensure dredging will be within the federal channel and to the authorized depth. The system can be programmed to include the federal channel boundary and the designated dredge areas. In addition, USFWS recommended and USACE agreed, to maintain a ten-foot buffer off the federal channel boundary

along the west channel boundary adjacent the coral reef. This means dredging within ten feet of the west channel boundary will not be performed to ensure protection of the west reef.

How does weather, such as high winds, impact this project?

In the event of high surf or winds, work will be suspended for safety concerns. The contractor is required to monitor current and forecasted weather conditions to inform dredge operations.

Is there any oversight to ensure the Best Management Practices (BMPs) are being conducted?

The Contractor will be responsible to develop an environmental protection plan that demonstrates how they will comply with all environmental requirements in the contract, including but not limited to, BMPs, notification requirements, stop-work triggers, contingency planning, spill response and monitoring. Typically, this will involve a third-party or dedicated monitor to ensure adherence to the contract, especially BMPs. USACE will also conduct regular on-site inspections to ensure adherence to the contract. It is the USACE construction model that the Contractor is responsible for quality control and USACE is responsible for quality assurance.

Can we have a copy of the BMPs?

A copy of the compiled list of BMPs is posted to the project website at <https://www.poh.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Civil-Works-Projects/Kaunakakai-Harbor/>.

Is an archaeologist needed during maintenance dredging?

No. USACE anticipates that no historic properties would have accumulated in the harbor mud since the last dredging, and it is highly unlikely that any historic properties would survive the underwater conditions. Accordingly, USACE did not propose archaeological monitoring and after review, the State Historic Preservation Department (SHPD) did not require archaeological monitoring of dredged material.

USACE identified several historic properties (listed on the National and State Register) on the landside adjacent to Kaunakakai Harbor and no historic properties in harbor waters. Since all work will be conducted in water and there is no landside component, no earthmoving or ground disturbing work, it was determined no historic properties would be affected by the maintenance dredging. USACE consulted SHPD and the following NHOs: OHA, Ahupua'a o Moloka'i and Ke'eaumoku Kapu. USACE received concurrence from SHPD on this finding and no response from any of the NHOs listed above.

Can you use double or triple silt curtains so that muddy water does not leave the active dredge area?

No. USACE has learned over the years that even a single silt curtain is a challenge to keep up against wave action and currents. Doubling and tripling silt curtains does not necessarily mean it will be better. Instead, there is a higher risk that the silt curtains could fail. The contractor is required to appropriately size the silt curtain to enclose the smallest area necessary to complete the work. During operations, the active dredge area will be enclosed by a silt curtain in order to contain the muddy water. The silt curtain will be monitored throughout the shift to ensure it is working properly and there are no leaks. If there is a leak, then the contractor will stop work, identify the problem and correct, before resuming dredging.

Does the EPA do testing after each dredging?

No. However, testing/samples are done in accordance with the EPA Sediment Testing Manual prior to disposal at the ODMDS. USACE analyzes the test results to determine whether the material is suitable for ocean disposal using the EPA disposal criteria (i.e. suitability determination) and then seeks approval from EPA on the suitability determination. EPA has issued a concurrence for use of the Kahului ODMDS to dispose of dredged material from Kaunakakai Harbor because it passed all physical, chemical and biological tests. No additional testing will take place for this dredge cycle.

Has testing been done at the Kahului Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS)? Were there any effects?

Yes. The Kahului ODMDS was created in the 1980s by EPA and is managed under a Site Management and Monitoring Plan, dated 1997. EPA sets volume limits and criteria for material disposed at the ODMDS. The EPA monitors the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the five Hawaii sites every five years to ensure there have been no significant adverse effects to the site and monitors the accumulation to ensure limits are not exceeded. Only dredged material that is clean and non-toxic is allowed ocean disposal. Recent surveys confirmed there have been no significant adverse effects.

Is marine life considered at these ODMDS? Will they continue to monitor if the material has lasting impacts?

EPA specifically selected sites that were void of marine life. The criteria set for suitable for disposal dredged material is intended to not promote marine growth at the ODMDS. EPA is subject to federal environmental laws and regulations that take into consideration impacts to marine life. Please inquire with EPA on any questions concerning environmental compliance at the ODMDS.

What decontamination protocols will the equipment go through to prevent the spread of invasive species?

By contract, the contractor will be responsible implementing appropriate protocols to ensure prevention of spreading invasive species. This includes ensuring previously used construction equipment is clean prior to bringing onto the project site.

Since Kaunakakai Harbor is a shallow harbor, barge companies charge the community higher rates. Can we lower our prices?

No, unfortunately, lowering of prices cannot be done as a result of this project, which entails only removal of mud in order to restore the harbor to authorized depths. No expansion or deepening is allowed to be done. If the community is seeking to reduce cargo rates, suggest speaking to State representatives to work with barge companies.

Can the dredged material be beneficially reused?

Yes, it is possible, but beneficial reuse will not be done under this contract, as no request was received from local government. The federal standard or least costly alternative is to go to offshore disposal. To beneficially reuse the dredged material, a request would be made by the local State or County government to USACE, analysis for suitability would be performed and the local sponsor would be financially responsible to pay for the beneficial reuse portion.

USACE has three programs that investigate beneficial use of dredged material:

- 1) Continuing Authorities Program, Section 204 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, as amended.
Section 204 provides authority for USACE to restore, protect, and create aquatic and wetland habitats in connection with construction or maintenance dredging of an authorized Federal navigation project.
- 2) RSM program.
The RSM program recognizes sediment as a valuable resource and takes a regional or systems approach to address sediment related issues and support sustainable solutions across multiple projects (primarily navigation, flood risk management, and ecosystem restoration) in coordination with partnering organizations, governments, and stakeholders.
- 3) Section 1122 of Water Resources Development Act of 2016.
The Hale'iwa Small Boat Harbor Maintenance Dredging Project was selected for this pilot program project and is investigating beneficially using Hale'iwa dredged material to nourish the adjacent shoreline at Hale'iwa Beach Park. This type of effort is typically funded by a local government entity. However, Section 1122 looks to instead utilize Federal funding for this effort.

There has been build up on the East side of the beach. Can we expect an acceleration? Will this work affect the site?

The work on the east side of the beach is outside the federal limits of the project. Since USACE only surveys the areas within the federal harbors to monitor sediment build up and depths, it is difficult to speculate about the areas outside the limits of the surveys. It can be noted that the rate of sediment build-up within the harbor appears to have slowed since the last dredging cycle in 1973. RSM program would also be helpful to identify sediment build up. Planning Assistance to States program also investigates why there is a build-up and would seek to identify solutions.

Why was I not consulted about the EPA disposal site designation?

The EPA designated five ocean dredged material disposal sites throughout the State of Hawaii in 1980. Please inquire with EPA directly on any questions concerning environmental compliance prior to site designation.