



**US Army Corps
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**‘Proactive’ Corps, Hawaii State Officials Working To Prevent Potential
Moanalua Valley Rockslides**

By Dino W. Buchanan, Honolulu District Public Affairs

(HONOLULU – July 28, 2005 – NR-17-05) The Army Corps of Engineers, in cooperation with the State of Hawaii and the Directorate of Public Works U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii, began a proactive \$1.4 million rockfall mitigation project this month to remove 13 boulders and stabilize two cliff faces above homes in Moanalua Valley on Oahu.

State of Hawaii 31st District Representative Glenn Wakai helped secure federal funding for the Moanalua project through the office of Hawaii Senator Dan Inouye.

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2-2-2 ROCKFALL

"The government in this case is taking a really responsible action," Wakai said. "This is not something they are legally responsible to do, but it's a case where the Army Corps of Engineers realizes there are boulders sitting precariously above people's homes. Rather than wait for something tragic to happen, they are being really good neighbors in taking those boulders down. We certainly don't want to be the next community where somebody's life gets taken by a falling boulder."

After heavy rains and landslides damaged more than 30 properties near Tripler Army Medical Center in late 2003, the Corps of Engineers conducted a rockfall mitigation study. The 2003 landslides brought boulders, rocks and mud down the hillside from land around Tripler Army Medical Center. According to Wakai there were no injuries, but 32 homeowners sustained property damage.

Representative Wakai credited U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye with getting funding for the remedial work so soon after the landslides.

"This is a great example of the Army being proactive in protecting lives and property of civilian neighbors in Moanalua Valley," Sen. Inouye said.

According to Randy Mita, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project construction coordinator, the boulders to be removed range from four to eight feet in diameter and weigh from four to 13 tons. The Directorate of Public Works U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii is providing the funds to the Corps for completion of this project.

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3-3-3 ROCKFALL

Prometheus Construction, under contract with the Corps, expects to complete work on the boulder removal and cliff stabilization in a quarter-mile stretch along Ala Aolani Street and Ala Aoloa Loop by early November 2005. Prometheus specializes in rockfall mitigation and has completed projects near the Lalea townhomes in Hawaii Kai, Kalaniana'ole Highway at Makapuu Point, Waimea Bay and is in the process of finishing a project along Hana Highway on Maui.

"First we're going to install impact or catchment fences below each boulder and cover each one with a net before we break it into little pieces. Once they're broken into small pieces, we'll place the rock into heavy-duty lifting bags and then hoist them to the top of the hill using a helicopter," Prometheus Construction General Manager Cliff Tillotson said. According to Tillotson, residential traffic will not be disrupted, but several residents residing in the helicopter flight path areas will be evacuated sometime in October for short periods of time while the heavy-duty rock bags are lifted to the top of the hillsides. Once all the work is completed, the rock catchments will be removed.

"In all these valleys, they built housing developments right up to the edges of the slopes, and a lot of times, there are large boulders just teetering above the homes," said Tillotson. "The Army Corps of Engineers conducted their own study and is proactively removing the potential rockfall hazards before anything bad happens."

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4-4-4 ROCKFALL

In the 2003 landslide, rocks and dirt slid onto the property of Janet LeGrande, who lives on Ala Mahina Place in Moanalua Valley. LeGrande says she is very happy the Corps is actively removing the hillside boulders.

“Whatever the Corps can do to keep the hillside stable will be a great help to everyone in the area, " LeGrande said.

Toki Nishida, a 35-year Moanalua Valley resident says "It's going to be terrific.” “Every time I walk in the valley, I see those boulders and I wonder when one is going to come down.”

"It's been pretty dry this summer, but as soon as it starts raining, we're afraid more of these rocks will come down," LeGrande said.

"We are not going to wait for something tragic to happen here," Rep. Wakai said.

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