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Army Corps Regional Sediment Management Workshop Showcases Potential Demonstration Areas

By Sarah H. Cox, Honolulu District Public Affairs

(FORT SHAFTER, HI - NR 26-06) Honolulu District recently rolled its annual Southeast Oahu Regional Sediment Management (SEO/RSM) Workshop out of the conference room and into the real world.

Workshop participants toured the demonstration project area from Mokapu Point to Makapu'u Point on Oahu's southeast coast by bus.

Co-sponsored by the Honolulu District and the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resource's Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL), the SEO/RSM workshop road trip made the 12-mile tour of the four potential demonstration project areas including Kaupo, Kaiona, and Kailua beaches as well as Bellows Air Force Station, Lanikai and Ka'elepulu Stream.

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2-2-2 SEORMS WORKSHOP

This is the third consecutive year Honolulu District hosted the workshop that focuses on identifying sources of sand, defining sediment transport pathways as well as trends in wind and wave climate.

The 2006 workshop participants included stakeholders and representatives from federal, state and local agencies as well as members of the local academic, engineering and planning community such as: the Federal Highways Administration, Lanikai Community Association, Hawaii Dept. of Transportation, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the University of Hawaii, the City and County of Honolulu and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Honolulu District Project Manager Tom Smith said hosting an educational workshop in the region being studied is a logical and natural thing to do.

“Workshops like this are important because education, awareness and partnerships are key elements in a successful RSM program,” Smith said.

According to Smith, regional management of sediment is especially crucial in Hawaii as it creates healthy beaches for shore protection, increases environmental habitat for coastal wildlife and decreases costs through coordination of activities. It also allows use of natural processes to solve engineering problems and helps prevent storm and flood damage.

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3-3-3 SEORSM WORKSHOP

Participants were provided with a wealth of technical information to facilitate discussions and help them better understand the issues, constraints and opportunities within the region. The workshop also included informal discussions, updates on coastal processes, status of previous RSM studies and poster sessions utilizing the bus as a billboard.

At the various locations along the tour route, workshop facilitators emphasized to participants that improper management of sediment can be detrimental to the islands as too much sediment can smother reefs and hinder navigation, while not having enough sediment can cause wetlands to disappear and beaches to erode.

SEO/RSM allows the Honolulu District the opportunity to work together with local partners to manage sediment that is vital to maintaining a healthy natural environment.

For more information about RSM visit the Honolulu District RSM website at:
<http://gis.poh.usace.army.mil/rsm/pages/index.htm>.

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