

IEM Committee

From: Rich Salem <rsalem@windhorsegroup.com>
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 5:01 AM
To: IEM Committee
Subject: IEM #33 sand moratorium
Attachments: Sugar Cove Beach Effort1.pdf; Sugar Cove Beach Effort2.pdf

Aloha Council and IEM Committee members.

RE: the Council IEM Committee's sand mining review issue and possible legislation (IEM #33); I know you're busy addressing many important issues and I certainly don't want to impose on you unduly but I write this to express how vital and critical it is to have a source of legally-permitted Maui-based high quality inland sand for projects such as our long-running beach nourishment effort.

I am the President of Sugar Cove AOA and have been leading the work to restore and preserve the Spreckelsville-located public beach fronting our property by way of replenishing the sand dune berm consistent with County and State regulations. The AOA "adopted" the beach well over 15 years ago, and at significant cost we have voluntarily restored it to a safe and welcoming public resource primarily for locals—most of whom are upcountry, Haiku, Paia, and Kahului-based families. To the point, we have been reliant on purchasing small amounts of screened beach-quality inland dune sand from HC&D (formerly Ameron). No alternative sources of acceptable sand are available. (Our annual use of such sand is approximately 1200 tons.)

We also recognize and hold dear the protection of sacred burial sites of 'iwi kupuna and heartily support such regulations. (We believe the sand we've purchased to date has honored this principle.) We greatly appreciate the genuine concerns of many that burial sites may have been disturbed or ignored in the Maui Lani Partners project and the frustration that Maui's precious sand resources have been shipped away for neighbor island use. We sincerely share those concerns and frustrations. Nonetheless, we also are concerned that a prohibition or even moratorium may be too widely applied and cause severe impacts for legitimate (and very worthy in our eyes, of course) county-based projects without significant consideration of the consequences.

The County and State both have beach preservation and protection as prominent objectives as stated in Chapter 205A-2 re: Coastal Zone Management. Our dune nourishment effort at Sugar Cove is included and cited in the Maui County Beach Management Plan (2nd Edition, 2008). Our beach nourishment effort has also been recognized with a national award from the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association and is regarded by DLNR as a successful project. Our project of restoring a public beach has been funded entirely by private individuals, and has enhanced the coastal and marine environment as evidenced by the frequent fishing, diving, turtles and even occasional monk seal. Rigorous monitoring and reporting of water quality is regularly undertaken by respected coastal scientists. As it's often said, a picture is worth a thousand words, I include the following photos to highlight the results of the Sugar Cove program using screened beach-quality inland sand consistent with State and County beach nourishment permits.

We respectfully hope the Committee will continue to wisely manage Maui's resources and address our community's varied needs and values.

Mahalo nui.

—Rich Salem
320 Paani Place,
Paia, HI 9677

September 1986:
eroding clay and
turbid water



June 1989:
beach is gone
eroded clay, rocks,
and sand bags



Present Day





Popular beach
for locals to dive,
fish, and play
on the beach

