



26 November 2008

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Hawaii Regional Sediment Management

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

a. The Regional Sediment Management (RSM) Program is authorized under Section 516 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. The Honolulu District's RSM demonstration project is part of a larger program that is intended to provide a systems approach to sediment management in order to recognize and more effectively utilize sediment as a resource, and thereby reduce project costs while enhancing regional sediment budgets and providing environmental habitat. The local project sponsor is the Hawai'i Department of Natural Resources (DLNR) Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL).

b. The initial study area for Honolulu District's RSM project is located in southeast O'ahu, Hawai'i, along approximately 12 miles of Pacific Ocean shoreline extending from Mōkapu Point to the north to Makapu'u Point to the south. Final products for southeast O'ahu completed in FY 2008 include a sand source inventory, a regional sediment budget, a web-enabled GIS platform and a Southeast Oahu Regional Sediment Management Plan report. In addition to southeast O'ahu, regional sediment management activities were initiated on Maui in FY08.

c. Areas of RSM focus on Maui will include Kīhei, Kahului, and West Maui shorelines. The Kīhei shoreline includes a Federal shore protection project at Kalama Park, and this area is widely used by the public for recreation. Shoreline erosion north of the park in recent years led to initiation of a Section 103 study, which is currently on hold due to lack of non-Federal funds. The Kahului region includes a Federal navigation project (Kahului Harbor) where the principles of RSM could be employed to increase beneficial use of dredged material. There is also a Maui County owned revetment to the east of the harbor that protects a wastewater treatment facility. The county is currently considering extension of the revetment and/or beach fill alternatives to address continued erosion of the shoreline in this area. West Maui is also experiencing erosion along many shorelines including Kā'anapali, Kahana, Honokowai, and Lahaina. The West Maui Watershed Project has recently been initiated and may provide opportunities to partner with RSM to address sediment related issues on a system-wide scale.

d. Tasks for FY 2009 include identifying available RSM related studies and reports for Maui and summarizing the applicable material in a report. A summary of existing sand source investigations (upland and offshore) for the island of Maui is also to be completed. The investigation of RSM opportunities on the island of Maui will further the understanding of the dynamics of the complex coastal processes at work and promote the development of long-term strategies for sediment management in other problem regions in Hawai'i.