



News Release

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DDFIA SEEKS SHORLINE MODIFICATIONS AT CROMWELL'S TO INCREASE PUBLIC SAFETY

HONOLULU, Hawaii – The Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art (DDFIA) announced today its proposed plans for a safety and shoreline stabilization project in an area commonly known as Cromwell's, which fronts DDFIA's museum, "Shangri La." In preparation for the project, DDFIA has filed a draft environmental assessment with the State Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC).

"The primary goal of this project is to increase public safety, while maintaining public access to the shoreline and ocean," said Konrad Ng, executive director of Shangri La. "We have looked at many other options to reduce dangerous, life-threatening activity at Cromwell's and have determined that restoring the shoreline to a more natural state by dismantling the man-made breakwater is the best option."

The Shangri La Breakwater Safety Initiative and Shoreline Stabilization Project includes the modification of the man-made Diamond Head breakwater that was constructed by Doris Duke in 1937. The project would dismantle the boulders from the breakwater and use them to stabilize the existing seawall along the shoreline, helping to return it to a more natural state, with an irregular rocky coastline similar to the surrounding areas. The Koko Head breakwater will not be impacted.

In response to numerous injuries, including incidents of permanent quadriplegia and paraplegia, DDFIA received the necessary permits to construct a six-foot tall fence along the shoreline walkway in 2014. The goal of the fence was to inhibit dangerous activity, including jumping and diving from the walkway into the shallow water below. While there was an initial decrease in dangerous behavior and injuries, unsafe activities have continued, including jumping and diving off the fence and the Diamond Head breakwater, despite numerous warning signs.

Last year, DDFIA engaged experts to help explore other options to deter dangerous behavior while continuing to provide public access to the shoreline and ocean. With the recommendation to dismantle the Diamond Head breakwater, DDFIA began the lengthy permitting process and has been working closely with all federal and state regulatory agencies.

“We want the public to continue having full access to the ocean fronting Shangri La, however, we want to ensure that it is a safe experience for all who visit,” added Ng.

The public comment period on the draft environmental assessment will close on December 8, 2016. DDFIA will then seek all additional federal and state land use entitlements and the necessary ministerial permits to proceed. Once started, the construction phase of the project is expected to take approximately six to nine months to complete and will cost an estimated \$2.5 million (no public funds are being used for this project).

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As a museum of Islamic art, design and culture, Shangri La creates bold and innovative exhibitions, guided tours, public programs and digital initiatives that inspire people, ideas and actions. Built in 1937 as the Honolulu home of American heiress and philanthropist Doris Duke (1912-1993), Shangri La was inspired by Duke’s extensive travels throughout North Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia and reflects architectural traditions from India, Iran, Morocco and Syria. The permanent collection features objects from Spain, Morocco, Egypt, Syria, Iran, Central Asia, India and parts of Southeast Asia. Today, Shangri La is managed by the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art.

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