



News Release

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DDFIA RECEIVES A “FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT” FOR SHORELINE MODIFICATIONS PROJECT AT CROMWELL’S TO INCREASE PUBLIC SAFETY

HONOLULU, Hawaii – The Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art (DDFIA) announced that it has filed a completed Final Environmental Assessment (Final EA) with the State Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) on 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.” The Final EA received a “Finding of No Significant Impact” determination from the State Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands and has been published in the OEQC’s June 23, 2017 edition of *The Environmental Notice*.

“For many Hawaii residents, Cromwell’s is a very special place. This project will allow both residents and visitors to continue enjoying recreational ocean activities in the area while increasing public safety,” said Konrad Ng, executive director of Shangri La. “Since 2011, the Foundation sought input, studied options and taken steps to reduce dangerous, life-threatening activity. However, such behavior continues and we have determined that the best option is to dismantle the man-made breakwater and use the material from the breakwater to recreate a safer and more natural setting.”

The Shangri La Breakwater Safety Initiative and Shoreline Stabilization Project would use boulders that form the man-made Diamond Head Breakwater constructed by Doris Duke in 1937 to stabilize the existing seawall along the shoreline. The natural volcanic dike underneath the breakwater would be retained and the feature would have a more natural appearance, with an irregular rocky coastline similar to the surrounding areas. The Koko Head Breakwater will not be impacted.

In response to injuries, including incidents of permanent quadriplegia and paraplegia, DDFIA installed warning signs in 2011. In 2014, DDFIA received the necessary permits to construct a six-foot tall fence along the shoreline walkway. 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 despite numerous warning signs.

“We have posted warning signs. We have security staff monitor the area. We have contacted local law enforcement. We constructed a fence. Despite our best efforts to discourage dangerous activity at Cromwell’s, we continue to witness unsafe behavior” added Ng.

In 2015, 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 by going through the environmental review process, and has been working closely with appropriate federal and state regulatory agencies.

DDFIA will now be seeking all federal and state land use entitlements and the necessary ministerial permits to proceed. Once approvals are received, the construction phase of the project would commence after preparing design plans, and 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, culture and design, 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. Shangri La is a part of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation through the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art.

Media Contacts:

Neal Yokota
T: (808) 523-8802, ext. 213
C: (808) 222-0005
nyokota@strykerweiner.com

Dawn Hirai
T: (808) 523-8802, ext. 212
C: (808) 722-9445
dawn@strykerweiner.com