

Fund a report on achieving lateral coastal access in South Maui

Introduction

I have gradually worked my way down the South Maui coast from Sugar Beach to Kanahena and noted where it is not possible to access the ocean, mostly due to residences but in some cases due to hotels/resorts and in a couple of cases lack of management of vegetation on public land.

In talking to Jim Buika and studying State laws on coastal access and enforcement by the County, it appears that the main avenue available to the County to gain access where private property owners block access all the way to the shoreline is to condemn a swath at least six feet wide along the shoreline. That only applies where subdivision happened in 1973 or later. After condemnation, the State picks up 50% of the management costs.

However, some properties, like the Makena Surf Hotel, could easily provide a path along the cliff edge (like the Royal Mauian and its neighbors do). They would just have to put up a few signs. Others might have to do more to allow access.

This is a map that shows where we walked (red line) and where we couldn't get to or walk along the shoreline (yellow lines):

<https://mauigis.org/maps/?m=f0967a00b83542af928aa7b6241af420>

On the map above, condemnation would likely apply to:

- the southern half of Halama Street
- parcel 221,011,012 just north of Palauea Beach
- parcels 221,011,027 and 221,012,003 just north of Po'olenalena Beach
- parcels 221,007,079, 221,007,100, 221,007,099, 221,007,007, 221,007,090, 221,007,089, 221,007,088, 221,007,087 and 221,007,010 just north of Makena Landing
- parcels 221,007,075, 221,007,077, 221,007,006, 221,007,061, 221,007,097, 221,007,074, 221,007,062, 221,007,070, 221,007,091, 221,007,069 and 221,007,003 just north of Maluaka Beach
- parcels 221,006,090, 221,006,088 and 221,006,011 just south of Secret Beach
- parcel 221,006,006 just north of what is sometimes called Ahihi Cove

- parcels 221,006,093 and 221,006,092 just north of the Ahihi Kinau NAR
- For Menehune Shores it would be sufficient to take down no trespassing signs and put up shoreline access signs; that path is used and probably always has been
- For Makena Surf similar, but would need to demarcate the allowed shoreline access; I don't think anyone attempts to walk there now since it looks to be private property
- Access to the large grassy section of State-owned parcel 221,006,010 is a different matter, and after talking to Scott Fretz at DOFAW it may be resolved after the property is transferred to the NAR later this year

Pictures showing most of the blockage areas are here:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/NX37C16D64SrDP4s7>

Request

Fund the creation of a report on what steps are required to provide lateral coastal access in South Maui from Sugar Beach to Kanahena where there currently is none.

Jim Buika estimates the cost of developing such a report - which would have to be done through contracting because the Coastal Zone Management group is fully booked with other tasks - to \$25-50k.

Jim and Tara Owens say that coastal access is one of the intended uses of the SMA revolving fund. The fund has not been used to date and had a balance of \$365,438.76 on 12/31/2020:

<https://mauicounty.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9211803&GUID=42234453-21A7-4113-83E7-F220ED58BCB3>

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