

SLUPPY SURF ON NORTH SHORE



GREGORY YAMAMOTO | The Honolulu Advertiser

Waves were crashing over the surf breaks at the Hale'iwa boat harbor on Tuesday. High waves are expected to continue on Wednesday.

Washed LANIAKEA Locker Away 1/30/07 Waves big, but not so swell 1-31-07 THA B1

Only a few boarders bother going in; beaches closed to swimmers

BY MIKE GORDON
Advertiser Staff Writer

WAIMEA BAY — What it lacked in size, it made up for in ugly.

All along the North Shore Tuesday, and especially at Waimea Bay, the ocean was a roiling mess that was largely unrideable. Waimea was the only place where surfers tested their patience, waiting for long periods for a good wave to rise above the slate-gray and mocha-froth-colored sea.

"It's chunky," said Craig Watson, a 32-year-old surfer who drove in from Hawai'i Kai. "It was rideable, for sure, but defi-



See more photos of the big-wave day at Waimea Bay, at HONOLULUADVERTISER.COM

WINDY TODAY

High winds, with possible gusts up to 50 mph, are expected | B4

nately there were issues. It was not really clean."

The National Weather Service had forecast wave faces along the North Shore to peak Monday night at 30 to 40 feet. By early afternoon Tuesday the waves had dropped by almost half. And a warm southwest wind often raked them into slop just ahead of rain squalls. Wave faces are fore-

cast to reach 18 feet by Wednesday, the weather service said.

There are better days to go the beach, but Watson said there's a plus side to what he found.

"When it's chunky, there are fewer people out there," he said.

Bodo Van Der Leeden, captain of the city's North Shore lifeguards, said all beaches were closed to swimmers. Lifeguards questioned surfers who headed into the water to be sure they could handle the conditions. For anyone without experience, the waves don't have to resemble five-story buildings to be dangerous.

"For very experienced big-wave surfers, it's not particularly dangerous, but it's also not particularly enticing," Van Der Lee-

THE ADVERTISER'S VIDEO REPORTS



Waimea Bay lifeguards were busy Tuesday warning beachgoers. See it at:

HONOLULUADVERTISER.COM

and view other videos on our media player.

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