



Advertiser photo by Roy Ho

Ironwood trees planted 25 years ago on Kailua Beach are victims of the erosion that's been occurring over the past six months. No one can yet explain why the sand is leaving.

Erosion scoops away 150 feet more

Kailua Beach getting

By BEVERLY CREAMER

Advertiser Staff Writer

Kailua Beach has always been coming and going.

But this time, people are worried that it may be leaving for good.

"The beach is washing away. It's been quite significant this year," said Ramon Duran, deputy director of the City Parks Department.

"Normally it washes in some part of the year and out another part of the year, usually about 50 feet. But this year we've lost 150 feet, I'd guess.

"And some of the ironwood trees

planted 25 years ago have been toppling in."

To save the remaining trees, the Parks Department will move them back closer to the bathhouse within the next few weeks, as soon as a water line is installed to irrigate them, Duran said.

The biggest erosion area on the stretch of white beach that some people consider one of the best in the State is next to the boat-launching ramp, said Duran.

"The sand is eroding from the boat-launching ramp toward Kaneohe. I've talked to some of the property owners along Kailua Beach

and they say they're also experiencing some erosion, more so than they have in the past.

"It seems as though it's affecting the whole length (of the beach)," he said. "However," he added, "the sand is piling up on the Lanikai side of the boat ramp."

In an attempt to discover why this is happening, how much sand has been lost and how it can be stopped, the Parks Department, which has jurisdiction over the public beach parks, and the Department of Transportation Harbors Division, which has jurisdiction over the water, have

Advertiser Oct 8, 1976

smaller . . . and smaller

asked the Army Corps of Engineers to study the problem.

Scott Sullivan, project engineer for the study, says a report will be out in mid-December, but it may not tell why this new erosion pattern has occurred.

The Corps is starting with a low-budget, quick reconnaissance study of the situation which should tell them the extent of the problem and whether it justifies further studies and federal funds to correct, he said.

"The reconnaissance study just determines that yes, there is a prob-

lem," said Sullivan.

"It will take a more detailed, longer study to try to get a handle on the reason why."

Sullivan is tracing the history of the shoreline all along Kailua Beach to see how much erosion actually has occurred.

He's already put together a partial erosion pattern for the beach. In the early 1960s, he said, the Mokapu Peninsula end of the beach experienced considerable erosion. But now, he says, that end of the beach is building up.