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Monday, May 19, 2008 - 11:42 AM HAST

Hawaii beach honored for restoration

Pacific Business News (Honolulu)

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Kuhio Beach in Waikiki has been named one of 2008's best restored beaches by a preservation association.

The American Shore and Beach Preservation Association honored the beach for its restoration project, which began in December 2006.

The beach was restored by dredging eroded sand from offshore and filling three sites on Kuhio Beach, the association said. The project cost \$475,000.

"The Kuhio Beach restoration project continues to serve as a successful demonstration of the local technical capability, cost effectiveness and environmental soundness of using offshore sediment for local beach restoration," Dolan Eversole, a coastal geologist from the **University of Hawaii** Sea Grant College Program, who led the project, said in a statement. "While it was never intended to be a long-term solution to the local erosion problem in Waikiki, it has served its purpose as a pilot project and stimulated consideration of utilizing recycling eroded beach sands from offshore back to their respective littoral systems."

Coastal communities nominated their restoration project for consideration and an independent panel of coastal managers and scientists selected the winners.

Other beaches honored this year include: Olympic Sculpture Park, Seattle; Ocean Isle Beach, N.C.; North Boca Raton, Fla.; Destin and Walton County, Fla.; and Venice Beach, Fla.

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