

Monster's All-Star Experience

ENTER TO WIN A TRIP FOR TWO to the 2008 MLB All-Star Game

ENTER NOW

Star-Classifieds monster

83°F

# Star-Bulletin.com

Vol. 13, Issue 156 - Wednesday, June 4, 2008



Info | Mobile Edition | Corrections | Calendars | Movies  
 Obituaries | Vital Stats | Weather | Surf | Subscribe

Search  starbulletin.com Internet go »

autos jobs homes newspaper ads travel

Star quicklinks

- Classifieds
- Newspaper Ads
- Government Section

SPECIAL SECTIONS

- Island Homes
- Food For Thought

the BIG Reader Poll

As economic times get tougher, which of the following areas do you cut back on first?

Back Issues

(1996-Present)  
 W | T | F | S | S | M | T

Sections

- Local News
- Features
- Sports
- Business
- Editorial
- Travel (Sunday)
- Corrections
- Blogs
- Calendars
- Movies
- Special Packages
- Directory
- E-Mail Headlines
- RSS/XML Feeds
- Freelancers
- Subscribe

Subscribe to the Print Edition

Star-Bulletin

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

- Classifieds
- Autos
- Island Homes
- Jobs
- Government Section
- Bidding Advantage
- Advertise

## OUR OPINION

### State upholding public policy in Kahala beach access issue

#### THE ISSUE

The state has requested that homeowners along Kahala Beach cut back vegetation that is interfering with public access.

Global warming notwithstanding, island shorelines persist in creeping inland as the ocean does what it has always done. To stave off erosion, some beachside residents cultivate or allow plants to grow at their property lines and beyond. Sooner or later, vegetation and waves converge, preventing people from moving laterally along public land, which law defines as the highest wash of waves at high tide during the highest surf season, "usually evidenced by the edge of vegetation or by the line of debris left by the wash of the waves."

In 2006, the Hawaii Supreme Court, reaffirming decisions made in the 1960s and 1970s, said the state, in determining shorelines certification, could not use vegetation strictly as the marker since that encouraged landowners to use plantings to extend their property further makai, contrary to objectives and policies of state law.

The problem is that shorelines in Kahala and elsewhere around the state continue to move mauka and property owners find the ocean closer to their lanai and back porches. But law sides with the public interests, which the state is defending when it sent letters to homeowners on a stretch of Kahala Beach, asking them to trim back their plants so people aren't forced into the ocean to get by.

As expected, some of the residents aren't happy and might not comply. One said the naupaka protects his property from erosion, which might be true for the time being, but eventually the sea will win out.

Longtime beach-goers can remember when the sand stretched much farther out. Dolan Eversole, a University of Hawaii coastal geologist, told the Star-Bulletin's Rob Shikina that erosion has taken away so much land that in some cases, private property already has been submerged. Eversole said the state is rightly more concerned with beach access than property lines, adding, "There is no such thing as a private beach in Hawaii."

How this matter is resolved remains to be seen. Barring dissolution of a long-standing public land trust policy, such issues will continue to spark conflicts and likely become increasingly severe as natural

Inside | June 4

#### Editorial

- » State upholding public policy in Kahala beach access issue
- » Corky's Editorial Cartoon
- » Under the Sun: Cell phones can be distracting
- » Letters

#### Hawaii News

- » Obama claims presidential nomination
- » Obama sends his aloha
- » Tam urged to quit committee leadership
- » Dog finds maternal instincts with kittens
- » "Lost" Robber Sentenced To Jail
- » Silent march honors Dumlaio
- » USS Lake Erie refuels at sea with 250,000 gal.
- » Graduation rates better, but still disputed
- » City to appeal award in lawsuit over injury
- » 5 are injured after truck crashes into Kauai store
- » Obits: Services set for La Pietra's initial leader
- » Newswatch, Police/Fire
- » Kokua Line: "Public" parking stalls set aside
- » Corky's Hawaii
- » Photo Finish
- » Obituaries
- » Shining Stars
- » Corrections
- » Weather

#### Features

- » Spam glam, exercise your creativity
- » Sig. hot sauce propels chili to championship
- » Da Kine
- » By Request: Tarragon is the herb of spring
- » Electric Kitchen: Thermal cookers
- » Wine: Roses quench thirst on summer days
- » Wood Craft: Jenna Bush visits Lanai City

#### Sports

- » Mililani's Antolin amped about MLB draft



NO MATTER WHEN IT HAPPENS, YOU CAN BE COVERED.



forces -- even without climate change -- advance.

Legislation that would have required government agencies to account for sea-level rise and erosion rates, reduce risk to coastal landowners, preserve public access to beaches and to set development farther back from shorelines failed to win approval this year. Lawmakers would reconsider the forward-looking bill in the next session.

## Honolulu Star-Bulletin

Oahu Publications, Inc. publishes the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, MidWeek and military newspapers

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Black, Dan Case, Dennis Francis, Larry Johnson, Duane Kurisu, Warren Luke, Colbert Matsumoto, Jeffrey Watanabe, Michael Wo

### HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN

Dennis Francis, Publisher Lucy Young-Oda, Assistant Editor (808) 529-4762 lyoungoda@starbulletin.com
Frank Bridgewater, Editor Michael Rovner, Assistant Editor (808) 529-4768 mrovner@starbulletin.com
Mary Poole, Editorial Page Editor (808) 529-4748; mpoole@starbulletin.com

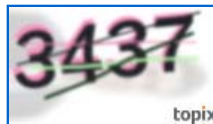
The Honolulu Star-Bulletin (USPS 249460) is published daily by Oahu Publications at 500 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 7-500, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813. Periodicals postage paid at Honolulu, Hawaii. Postmaster: Send address changes to Star-Bulletin, P.O. Box 3080, Honolulu, Hawaii 96802.

### Read all 9 comments »

Type in your comments to post to the forum

Name (appears on your post)
Comments

Type the numbers you see in the image on the right:



Post Comment

Please note by clicking on "Post Comment" you acknowledge that you have read the Terms of Service and the comment you are posting is in compliance with such terms. Be polite. Inappropriate posts may be removed by the moderator. Send us your feedback.

BACK TO TOP
© Honolulu Star-Bulletin -- http://starbulletin.com



Subscribe to the Print Edition

» Scoreboard
» TV & Radio

### Business

- » Local 5 to rally for Royal Kona workers
» TheBuzz: Upcoming DTV transition confusing
» Business Briefs
» Hawaii Stocks and Mutual Funds
» Market Watch
» WSJ Sunday
» Dilbert

Columns | June 4

### Corky's Hawaii

Corky Trinidad

### Kokua Line

June Watanabe

### By Request

Betty Shimabukuro

### Wood Craft

Ben Wood

### TheBuzz

Erika Engle

### Editorial Cartoon

Corky Trinidad

### Under the Sun

Cynthia Oi

Tools

Email this article

Printer-friendly

E-mail Editorial Dept.





Copyright © 2008 starbulletin.com. All rights reserved.  
News | Business | Features | Sports | Editorial | Calendars  
Terms of Use | Subscribe | Advertise | Classifieds | Advanced Search  
Info | Letter to Editor | Feedback  
500 Ala Moana Blvd. #7-210, Honolulu, HI 96813 808-529-4747

A rectangular advertisement banner with a blue background and a gold border. On the left, the text "CLICK HERE FOR THE BEST ROOM DEALS ON THE LAS VEGAS STRIP" is written in white, all-caps, sans-serif font. On the right, the "CIRCUS CIRCUS" logo is displayed in a gold, ornate, serif font with a decorative flourish underneath.