



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

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DLNR TO CONTINUE ROCKFALL MITIGATION EFFORTS AT KALALAU BEACH FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

LIHU'E -- The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is continuing its efforts to improve public safety along portions of the Kalalau Beach area in the Na Pali Coast State Wilderness Park in 2010.

"Kalalau Beach offers unique recreational opportunities and environmental resources, nestled among sensitive cultural sites that is a global destination for hikers and campers from around the world. We are taking these actions to improve the safety of park users now and in the future," said Laura H. Thielen, DLNR chairperson.

Rockfall mitigation is planned for the areas above the Ho'olea waterfall and the area above the beach cave. These areas are at the extreme western end of the Kalalau beach area.

DLNR is currently working with federal, state and County of Kaua'i agencies on compliance with current regulations and permits.

DLNR hopes to begin this project before summer in 2010. Work is expected to take two to three months. It will require the temporary and periodic closure of this section of the park and Kalalau Trail and beach. Campers will be directed to alternative camping sites and water sources.

These areas in Kalalau Beach were identified as imminent hazards in a rockfall hazard assessment currently being prepared by DLNR technical consultants. This rock scaling project is the second phase of rockfall mitigation measures that are being planned, following up on the area closures and signage installation.

Rock scaling activities will be limited to labor-intensive manual methods using simple tools such as crow bars, 'o'o, and air bags.

The scope of work will include removal of loose rock, dirt and debris from stable rock shelves above the waterfall to prevent those materials from falling in the areas below; and the removal of unstable rock material above the beach cave.

Due to associated cultural resource management issues and pending environmental clearances, DLNR is determining appropriate areas to place any fallen rock material that may not remain in place.

The development of subsequent permanent measures will include relocation of camping and toilet facilities to minimize public exposure to potentially hazardous areas where frequent rockfall occurs; and the consultation with pertinent government agencies and community organizations to ensure compliance and understanding of the necessity for these protection measures and improvements.

DLNR will provide updates to the public on the status of these steps. In April 2008, DLNR closed selected camping areas at the waterfall and trail to ensure the safety of park users, visitors, hikers and campers through the posting of closure signage.

For more information on this project call Division of State Parks O'ahu administration office at (808) 587-0300.

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