

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## **News Release**

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## SOUTH PUNALU'U BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT BREAKS GROUND, FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDS TO PAY FOR 100-PERCENT OF CONSTRUCTION

HONOLULU – The state Department of Transportation (DOT) marked the start of the South Punalu'u Stream Bridge Replacement Project on Kamehameha Highway with a groundbreaking ceremony this morning, along with federal, state and county officials.

The \$15.3 million project will replace the 83-year-old South Punalu'u Stream Bridge with a new structure that will meet current vehicular load, safety and seismic standards. Construction for the project will be 100-percent federally funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

"This project and other infrastructure improvements funded by federal stimulus funds will help to create and sustain construction jobs in Hawai'i during our tough economic times," said Lt. Governor James R. "Duke" Aiona Jr. "These projects benefit not only the immediate community, but our island economy as a whole."

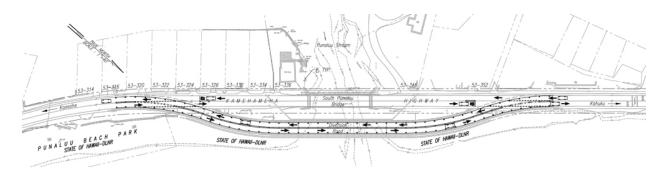
Phase I of the project will create a temporary diversion route and detour traffic around the existing bridge. The bridge will then be replaced in Phase II with a new concrete structure that will include eight-foot shoulders and a separated pedestrian path. When completed, traffic will be returned to the original traffic pattern and the temporary route will be removed.

"The federal ARRA funding is a great opportunity that allows us to start projects like this one that might have otherwise been delayed until our state economy fully recovers," said Brennon Morioka, state DOT Director. "Replacement of the South Punalu'u Bridge will make this area safer for motorists and pedestrians and keep our long-term plans on-track."

Construction by contractor Hawaiian Dredging Construction Co. is anticipated to begin in September 2009 with completion in September 2011.

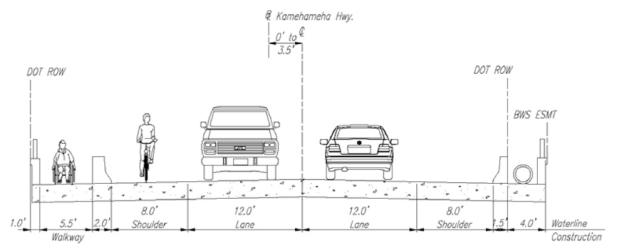
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A temporary diversion route will be constructed on the Makai-side of the existing bridge.

Traffic will be detoured here while bridge replacement work takes place.



As seen in this schematic drawing, the final bridge design will incorporate eight-foot shoulder lanes and a separated pedestrian walkway.



Constructed in 1926, the South Punaluu Stream Bridge will be replaced with a new bridge structure designed to meet current traffic, safety and seismic standards