



REMEMBER. RESPECT. RENEW.

natatorium.org



**HISTORIC
HAWAII
FOUNDATION**

**Friends of the
Natatorium**

The Territory of Hawai'i in World War I

- Over 10,000 people of Hawaii contributed
- Red Cross, Ambulance, British & U.S. Forces
- Record-setting bond sales and volunteers for service



U.S. Army Museum photo

“... the Territory of Hawaii stands in a class by itself among the States and Territories having already furnished nearly 2,000 men as volunteers in excess of the number required from the islands to fill up the first army.”

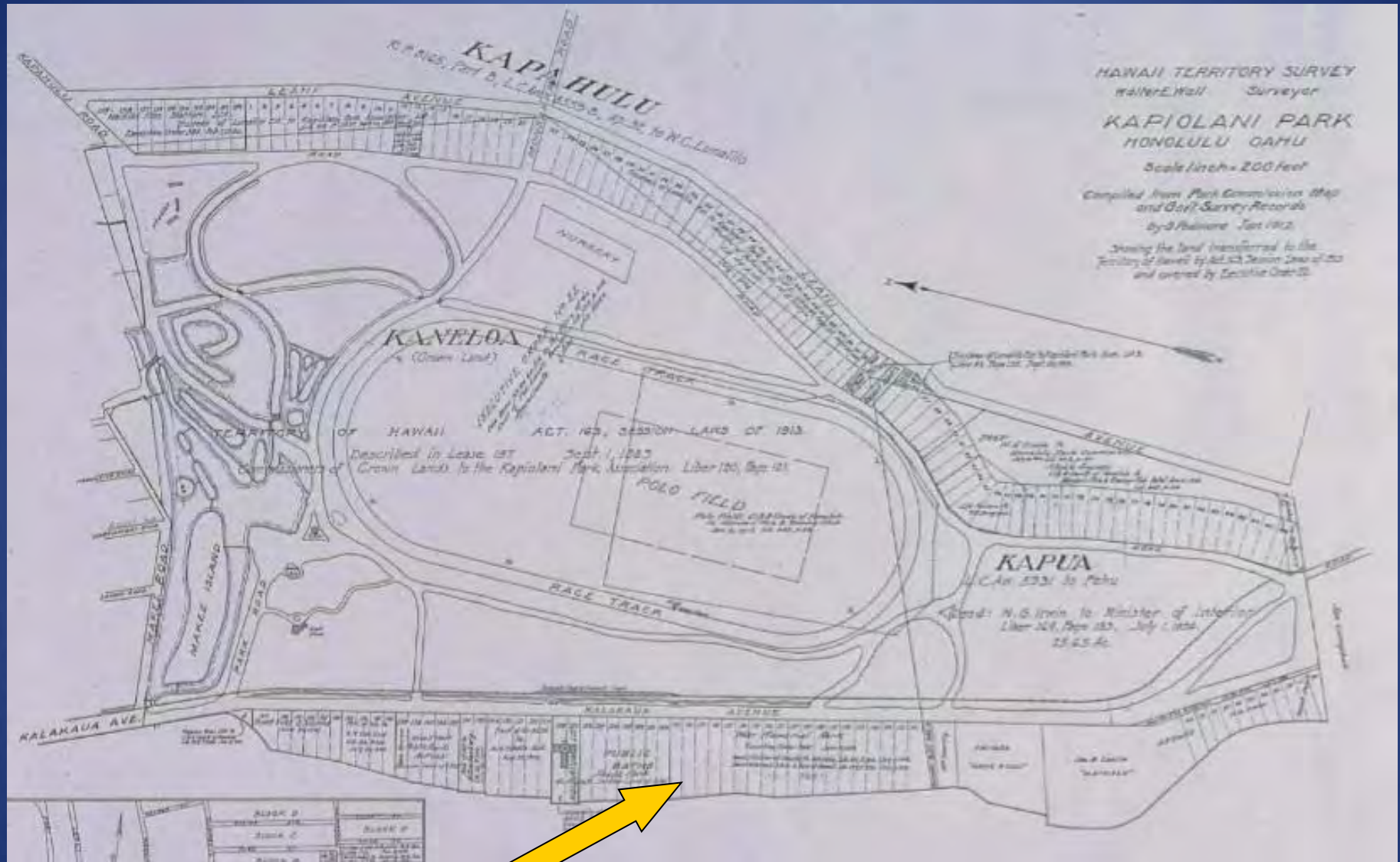
- Washington Post
July 15, 1917



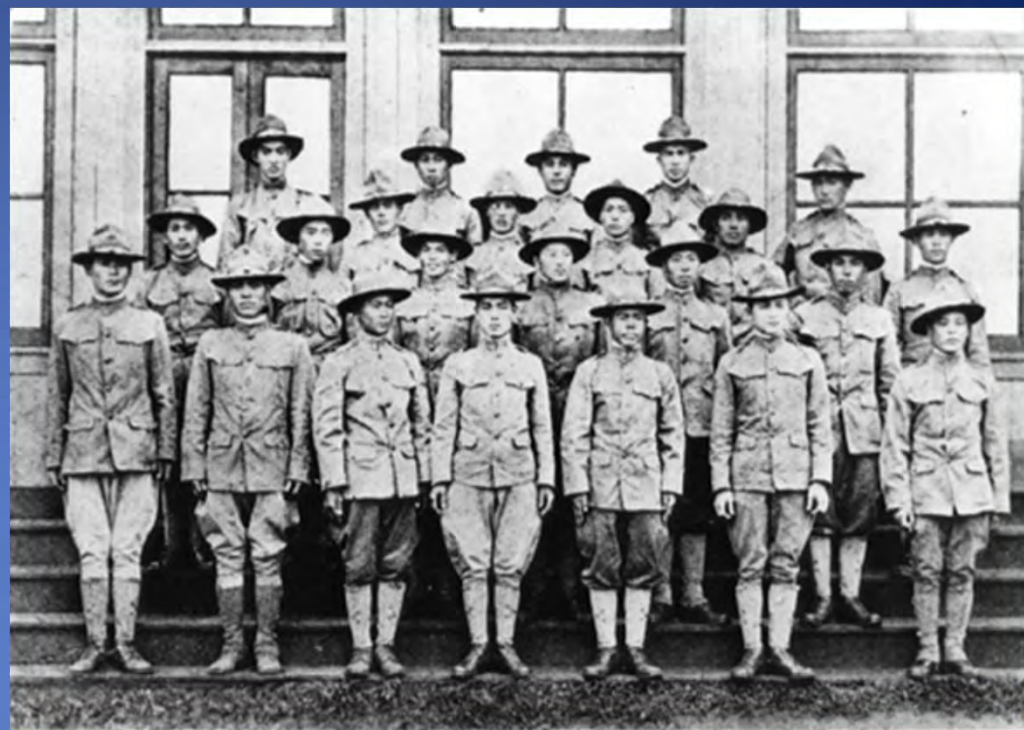
What Did Our Past Want To Leave To Us?



Location



“Memorial constructed at Memorial Park, Waikīkī”
- Act 15 (1921)



“To the men and women of Hawai‘i who served during the Great War”

- Act 15 (1921)



“...shall include a swimming course at least 100 meters in length.”

- Act 15 (1921)

Construction & Design

- Design competition resulted in selection of Lewis Hobart of San Francisco



Opening

August 24, 1927

“Tonight the Hawai‘i War Memorial opens. It is highly appropriate that this Memorial to the heroes of the World War should be a public natatorium....”

“The Natatorium epitomizes Hawaii’s prominence in one of the world’s great sports. Situated at Waikīkī, it looks upon and is a part of the ocean, whereof Hawai‘i is the “cross road.”

International Center of Swimming



**SWIM CHAMPIONSHIPS
SET IN WAIKIKI POOL**

HONOLULU, Dec. 21.—The women's outdoor swimming championships for 1929 of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States have been awarded to the Hawaiian association of the A. A. U., and will be presented next August in the war memorial natatorium at Waikiki.

1928: Charleston Daily Mail

Konno Defeats Yamashita

International Swimming Meet Deadlocked

HONOLULU, July 9 (AP) — Japan's top swimmers battled U.S. and Hawaiian stars stroke for stroke to win two out of four major events at the opening of the four-day international swim meet at Waikiki Natatorium last night.

the seams as a record 4,000 fans turned out under starlit Hawaiian skies to cheer their heroes.

The Japanese swimmers won standing ovations for their efforts.

Ford Konno, Hawaii's ace, crushed Japanese hopes in the blueplate 1500 meter freestyle, but Masaru Furukawa of Japan romped to an easy victory in the 200 meter breaststroke.

Furukawa also sparked the Japanese relay to victory in the 300 meter medley.

Richard Cleveland of Hawaii and Ohio State University won the 50 meters freestyle in 25.2 to better his American record by one-tenth of a second.

Japan's Masanobu Koga, second with 25.5, chalked up his best time yet in the event.

Waikiki Natatorium bulged at

They took their loss of the 1500 meters event in good spirits but nearly all the Japanese entrants blamed the salt water pool with its unmarked ocean bottom for their defeat.

Katsuji Yamashita, Japan's bright hope, told reporters he kept bumping the marker floats.

After his gruelling effort he said he was "very, very anxious" to meet Konno again—but, Yamashita added emphatically, "in Japan."

Yamashita had beaten Konno twice in Japan last year and had been favored to beat him again.

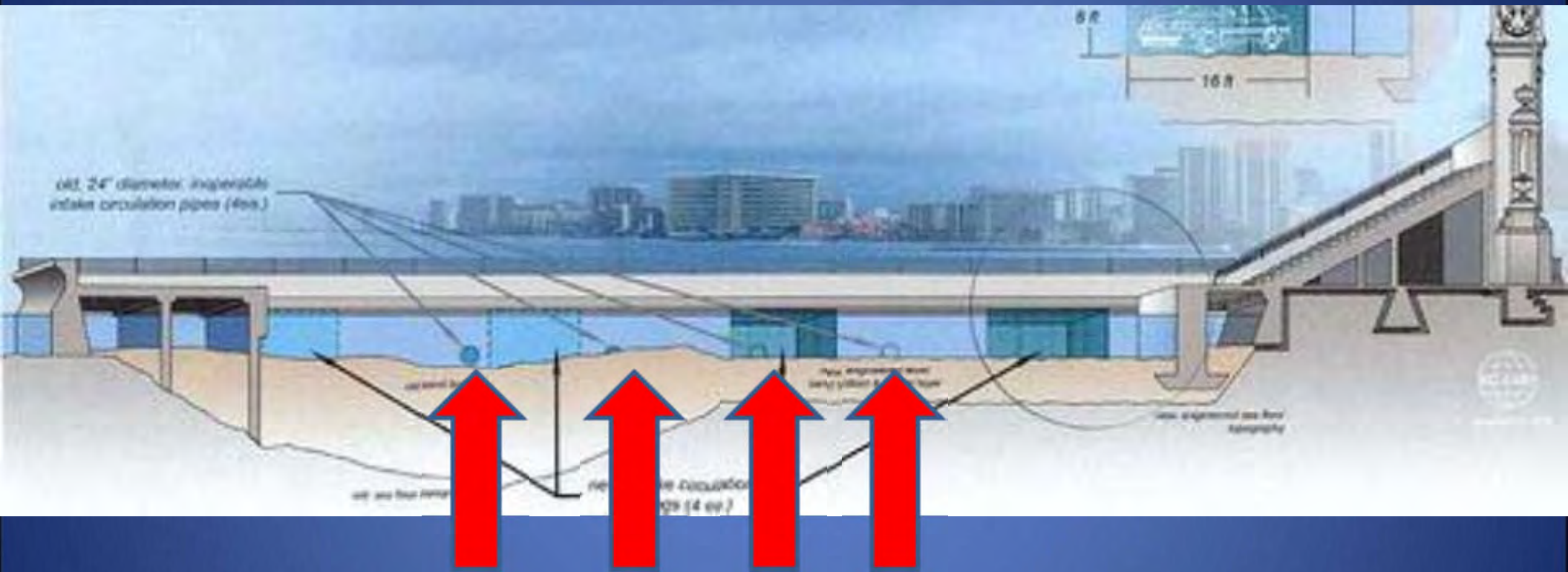
1954: Pacific Stars and Stripes

Community

Where Hawai'i learned to swim



What Went Wrong?

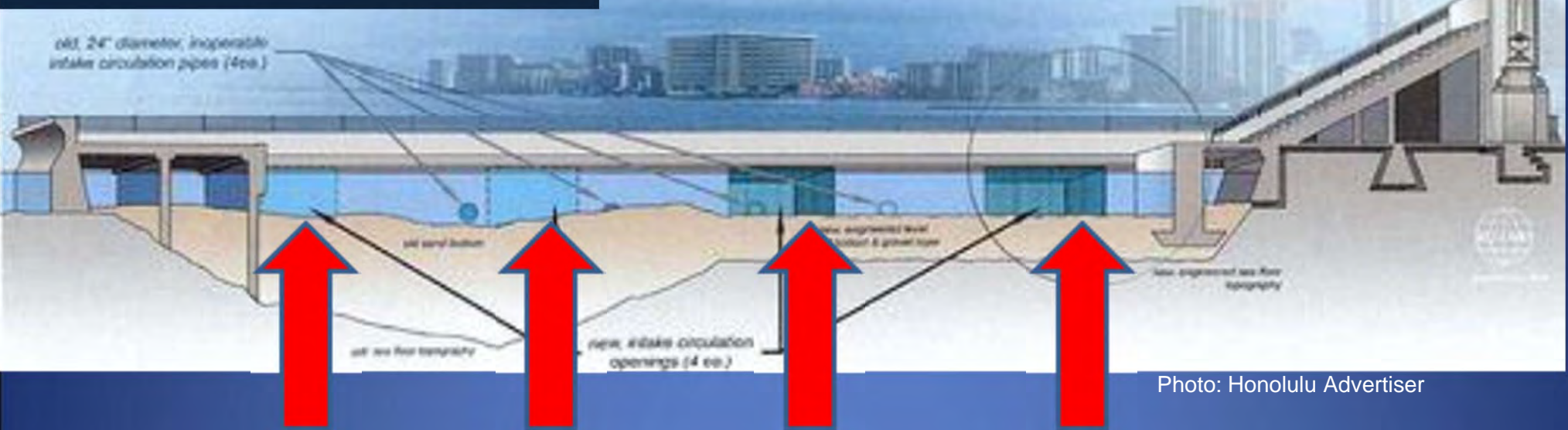


**4 x 24" pipes for
circulation**

Those who don't learn their history, repeat it.

- 1960s & 1970s – proposals to demolish Natatorium, 'Iolani Palace, Royal Hawaiian Hotel, Chinatown
- The 1980-85 Study original for DEMOLITION instead resulted in an EIS for RESTORATION

By 1998...



By 1998:

- EIS complete
- \$11.5 million secured for project
- Engineering design issues addressed
- All permits in place
- Contracted

New Design

- Ko'olina Lagoon Engineers
- Four 24" circulation pipes now 8' x 16'
- Natural ocean circulation
- Silicone lined
- Decreased depth
- Water quality as high as the surrounding water

So why are we still talking about this?

- **2005:** Restoration stopped
- **2008:** Army Corps of Engineers Report completed
- **May 2009:** Mayor establishes a task force to recommend an alternative; states own preference for demolition and new beach
- **Nov. 2009:** Task force majority endorses Mayor's alternative; Mayor accepts task force recommendation; minority report forwarded as well.

Current Conditions: Demo by Neglect



Wilson Okamoto Photo

2004



2009

“Ensuing failures are likely to occur suddenly.”

*- Existing Building Structural Condition Report , prepared by Wilson Okamoto for the C&C of Honolulu
, July 2004*

“If the San Souci Beach side of the basin perimeter collapses, the beach will destabilize. If the north side wall also collapses, then it is likely that a dry sand beach will no longer exist along this shore.”

– Wil Chee Planners Emergency Preparedness Contingency Plan, September 2008

Current Conditions



Simple repairs such as this door have not been attended to since the restoration was halted in 2005.

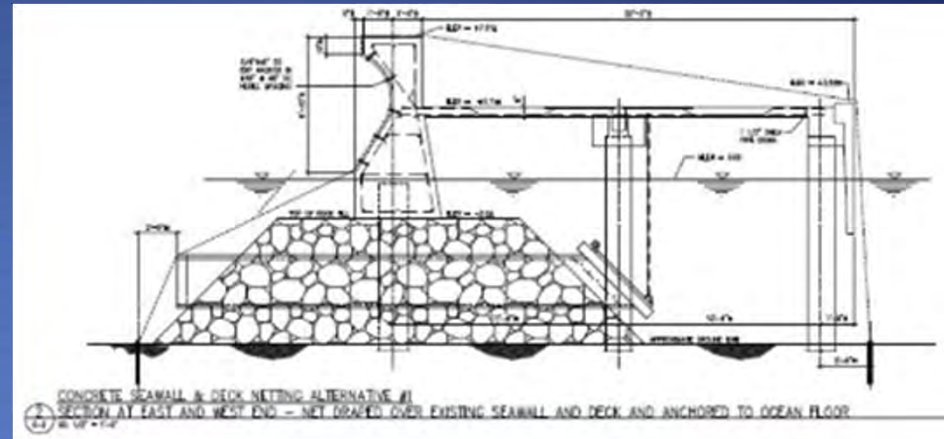


The offices and restrooms under the bleacher section have been in use since the restoration of that section was completed in 2000.

Where do we go from here?

OPTIONS

OPTION #1: STATUS QUO (DEMOLITION BY NEGLECT)



- Collapse Containment
- Install additional Warning signs
- Fence Pool
- Cover pool with Geo-net
- Apply bleacher coating



OPTION 2: RETURN TO THE NATURAL SHORELINE

Current View



View After the Removal



- Complete demolition of all structures
- Return to natural state & location
- Eliminates 87 parking spaces

Photos courtesy City & County of Honolulu

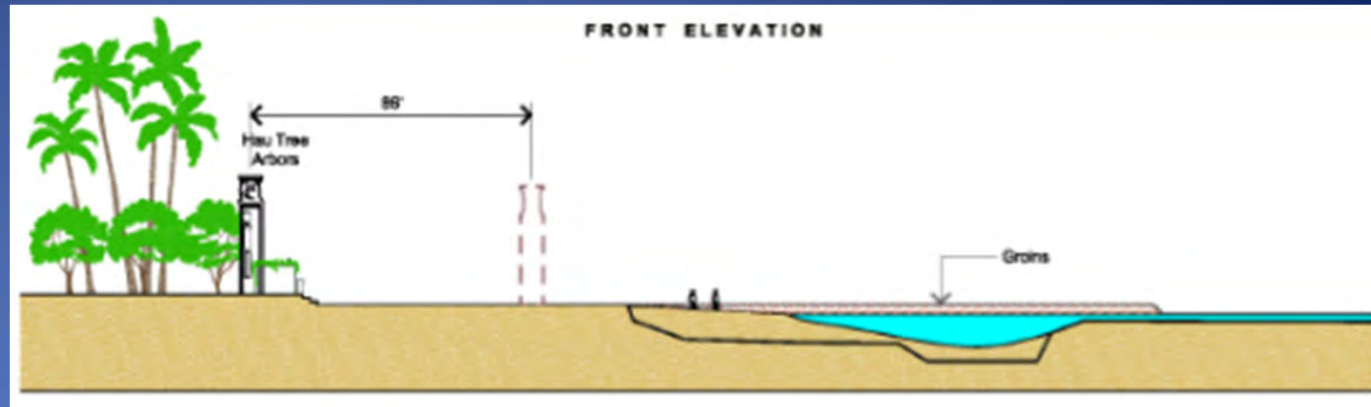
OPTION 3: RESTORE AND REDESIGN



- Reengineer the pool
- Cosmetic fixes to the bleachers, restrooms
- Highest annual costs because of additional management, maintenance and safety positions created.

OPTION 4: DEMO & BUILD BEACH

- Demolish all structures
- Construct new beach with parallel groins
- Rebuild arch in different location
- Create additional beach area in Waikīkī
- Eliminates 46 parking stalls along the access drive and 31 Natatorium parking stalls now reserved for safety personnel.
- Safety Station relocated
- Restrooms rebuilt



Considerations and Evaluations

CHOOSING THE BEST OPTION

ESTIMATED COSTS

Status Quo



Natural 1927 Shoreline



Rehabilitation & Redesign



Demolition & Build Beach



What Makes it Historic?

- State & National Historic Registers
- Association with historic events, people
- Setting
- First “Living War Memorial” in the U.S.



Legless Athlete Breaks Endurance Swimming Record
 HONOLULU (AP)—Charles Jimmy, 43 year old legless swimmer from New York, clinched out of Waikiki Aquarium Sunday night with a new world's endurance swimming record of seven days and five minutes.

Weissmuller Sets Record For Free Style

Chicago Tank Marvel Swims 100-Meter in 58 Flat at Honolulu.

HONOLULU, Aug. 28.—(AP)—The first women's program of the outdoor swimming championships of the National Amateur Athletic Union here last night ended with the Illinois Athletic club leading with 22 points, the Honolulu Club runner three and second with 21, the Boston Post of Boston, Mass. third with 10, the latter club of New York, the Pennsylvania Athletic club with 8 and the Los Angeles Athletic club five with those points each. Japan five points and the California Athletic club one.

The best time of the evening was that of Johnny Winterstein of the Illinois Athletic club, who made the hundred yard free style event in 28 seconds flat. George Hagan of the latter club of New York finished second; Kazuo Takeda of Waseda university, Tokyo, third and Johnny Walsh, attached to Honolulu, fourth.

The program included the all-around contest of the 100-meter long (including starting) race, followed by a contest by Governor Clarence H. Farrington of Hawaii. The starting capacity of 4000 was filled.

Charles Crable of the Honolulu Olympic Club took the 100 yard free style event of the Hawaiian Athletic club in the mile event, doing the distance in 21 minutes 25 1/2 seconds. That time was set by Steve Aoki of Honolulu university, fourth, to William Newport of the California Olympic club of Honolulu and fifth to Alberto Garcia, the Argentine runner, last runner under the colors of the New York Athletic club.

To V. Deacon of the Marine Pool, Miami, Florida, went first honors in the national men's 100 yard race, with 1:10.4. Roy of the Los Angeles Athletic club second, George Ferguson of the Hollywood Athletic club third and D. Daniels of the Los Angeles Athletic club fourth.

In the one women's event of the night, Marjorie Whitcomb of Honolulu, a 124 pounder, carried off the 440 yard free style in 2:08.4. Fred of West Oakland in 2:04.4.

In an exhibition hundred yard race, Walter Gray of the Honolulu Y. M. C. A. finished in 1:10.4. Fred of West Oakland in 1:10.4. Fred of West Oakland and W. Kirkham, Westchester, third.

He is unusually buoyant, he is legless, passed world's record of 348 minutes early Sunday night when he swam around the New York Hudson river. He swam more than a mile paddled slowly up the pool, most of the day a cigar. He set a new record by staying in the water.

Water Records Are Broken In Honolulu

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Oakland Tribune, 1927

What is not preservation...



- Moving and replicating
- Authentic arch cannot be moved
- Demolished and imitated

Mementos and Recreations Don't Work



Shoreline & Kaimana Beach



1920s



Today

Photo: City and County of Honolulu

Restoration

- The Natatorium has allowed San Souci beach to form
- Protected San Souci for over eighty years.
- The **ONLY** proven way to keep Kaimana Beach is to restore the Natatorium

Environmental Concerns

“The loss of the perimeter sea wall would pollute the surrounding ocean areas through the release of the debris, resulting from the partial collapse of the pool deck slab.”

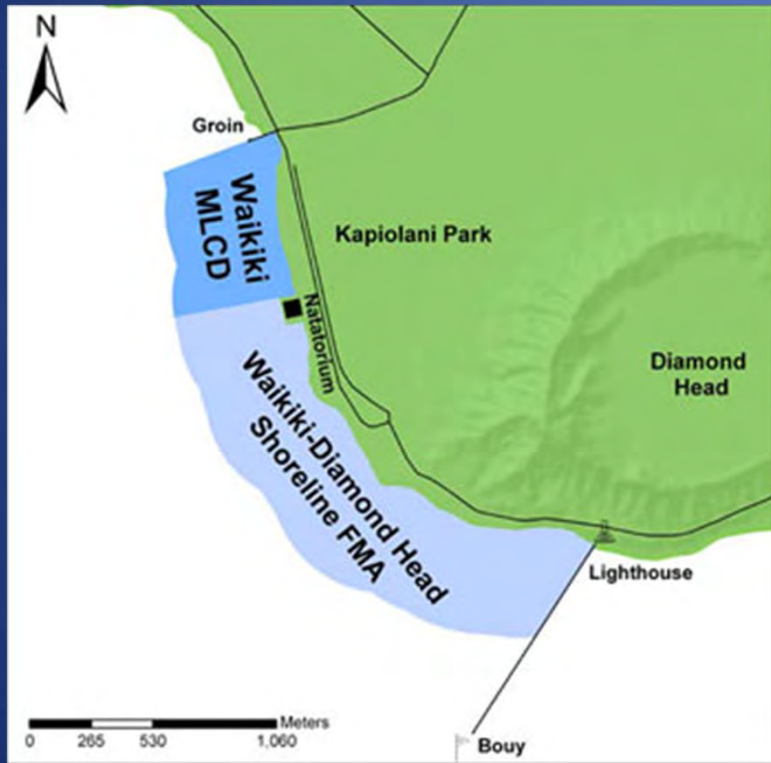
- Wilson Okamoto 2004 Structural Report

- Beach building will require shipment of sand from international sources & Continual sand replenishment
- The impacts on the marine life and ocean water quality from the full demolition and construction of an artificial beach are unknown.



PERMITTING

ALL OPTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO THESE LAWS AND PERMITS



1. FEDERAL: Section 106 Review (National Historic Preservation Act)
2. FEDERAL: Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act
3. FEDERAL: National Environmental Policy Act
4. FEDERAL: Clean Water Act Section 404
5. FEDERAL: Endangered Species Act
6. FEDERAL: Magnuson – Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
7. FEDERAL: Permit for Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act
8. State DLNR Environmental Impact Study
9. Disability & Access Board Review
10. State DLNR Conservation District Use
11. DLNR Executive Order for Construction Right of Entry
12. City & County Special Management Area
13. City & County Shoreline Setback Variance
14. City & County Building Permit
15. State Dept. of Health 401 Water Quality Certification
16. Hawai'i State Coastal Zone Management Program

Legal Issues

- The State of Hawai'i: Owners have not consented
- City County Ordinance 90-1: Specifies that the City will operate it as a Natatorium
- Hawai'i Supreme Court Ruling barring demolition

SIMILAR PROJECTS

Miami Marine Stadium
being restored



Photo: Robert Strauss, Courtesy of the Save the Richmond Plunge Trust



Richmond, California rehabilitating 1927 salt water natatorium



Newcastle Baths in Australia

WORLDWIDE PUBLIC RELATIONS

December 2009: Georgian Government demolishes WWII memorial to make room for new parliament building.



The Russian foreign ministry denounced an "act of state vandalism which offends the feelings of every civilised person." - BBC

Other World War I Memorial Restoration Projects



New Jersey War Memorial
Restoration: \$33 million+ (1999)



Washington D.C.'s WWI memorial
(local memorial) received \$7.5 million
in Federal money for restoration

\$102 million for restoration and
expansion in Kansas City for their
memorial (reopened 2006)



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
Restoration cost under \$1 million vs.
\$2.2 M for replacing with replica.
(2009)

Other Salt Water Pools

Maroubra - Mahon Pool



Wollongong Continental Baths



Beverley Whitfield Pool



the Lido



North Sydney's Olympic Pool



- Hundreds exist around the world
- Considered safer than ocean
- Pools without pumps safer
- Pool water quality = Ocean water quality

Photo :built in 1936. Photo courtesy of the North Sydney Council

Save Our History



“The commitment to restoring the authentic monument is consistent with the best of American traditions: we do not discard our national treasures”

- Senator Daniel Akaka

Referring to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

From Here...

- natatorium.org
- HistoricHawaii.org
- Sign up for alerts
- Environmental Impact Statement comment
- Share the information and educate others
- Join the preservation cause: HHF and Friends of the Natatorium
- Memorial Day Weekend: Sunday May 30