BEACH BOULEVARD SCHEME OF BOARD IS TALK OF TOWN

Plan Advanced By James Wakefield Hailed With Delight All Over the City

"JUST WHAT IS NEEDED" IS GENERALLY EXPRESSED IDEA

Cost While High Would Come Back To Territory Business Men Think

The principal topic of conversation in Honolulu yesterday was the proposed made by the board of harbor commissioners for making Waikiki Beach, from the harbor entrance to Diamond Head, a great playground for the people of the city.

With the possible exception of a few of those, part of whose property would have to be commandeered to make the project feasible, not a dissenting note was sounded. The city received the proposition enthusiastically, "It would be the making of Honolulu," is the just what's needed, if this is to become a great tourist resort." "It's time the right to the beach were restored to the public, instead of being haggled by a few individuals." These and other remarks of similar tenor greeted the publication of the scheme introduced by James Wakefield and enthusiastically endorsed by his fellow-members of the board of harbor commissioners.

That the project would be a costly one is not denied by anybody, but the general opinion expressed is that it would be money well spent—money that would return to the community many fold.

Would Make Real Beach

The Waikiki Beach scheme would give Honolulu a real beach, instead of merely a bathing place, which is negatively surrounded by sellaheas. As someone remarked yesterday, the Waikiki Beach today is only a verbal rack upon which Eastern music mechanics hang overheated garments. With the exception of the little dab of sand at the public baths—where there is no depth of water sufficient for swimming—there literally is not one foot of beach to-day the general public has free access without having to trespass upon or cross privately owned property. The law says that the littoral between high and low-water mark belongs to the public and cannot be alienated, but in Honolulu it has all been grabbed by private individuals or corporations.

Two Swimming "Holes"

For all the talk and advertising of Waikiki Beach, there are today only two places where swimming is practicable. One of these is the stretch in front of the Outrigger Club and to some extent, in front of the Moana and Seaside hotels. But to bathe there one who is not fortunate enough to be a member of the Outrigger club or a resident of the immediate neighborhood must go to one of the two hotels and pay twenty-five cents for dressing-room privileges. The other place where the water is deep enough and free enough of coral to what is known as "Brown's channel," in front of Mrs. Grey's hotel. But to reach that channel one must cross private property—or public property that has been usurped and fenced or walled in by private persons.

It is the obstructions along the beach that have given rise to a public demand for the restoration of the beach to the people, to whom it rightfully belongs, and this clamor has resulted in the plan proposed by Mr. Wakefield.

Dredging and Filling

If this plan is carried out—as it probably will be sooner or later—the result will be Waikiki Beach practically the entire length of the proposed boulevard. Mr. Wakefield proposes that all the shallow lagoon Kewalo and Kaknako be dredged out and the dredgings used to fill in the swamps at those localities. The dredging would not only deepen the water but would also draw away the sand, allowing the sand to drift in and creating a bathing beach that would be as good as if not better than any of the hotels.

Projects such as this one proposed for Honolulu have been carried into accomplishment in other places, and the results have been more than satisfactory. For instance, the City of New York not long ago condemned a broad strip of land five miles or more in length along the Hudson River and is constructing a magnificent boulevard ending at Grant's tomb, with frequent landing places for pleasure boats and with all sorts of accommodations for the general public. The project cost many millions of dollars, but nobody has yet arisen to complain that the money was not well spent.

California's System

The Southern California beaches are among the famous playgrounds of the world. Except to private individuals is permitted to grab the littoral that belongs to the people, nor is the question of title allowed to stand in the beach belongs. It belongs to the people.

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