

DREDGING OF BEACH PROPOSED TO BOARD

Suggest That Harbor Commission Remove Coral From Water Opposite the Outrigger and Seaside for Fill

Dredging of the ocean floor in front of the Outrigger Canoe club and the Seaside hotel with a view to removing the coral and using it to fill lowlands, has been suggested to the harbor board in connection with the Waikiki drainage canal project. There seems to be no doubt, it was learned today, that the suggestion will have the approval of the board, and the scheme made a part of the general canal scheme.

Because of the condition Waikiki beach is in today, with constantly increasing coral growths which are a menace to bathers and which are said to have made the diving rafts off the Outrigger club practically useless, the swimming public which makes Waikiki its mecca will doubtless hail the suggestion with extreme satisfaction.

The proposal is that the contractor for the canal project remove through dredging operations all coral from the ocean floor in front of the Outrigger club and Seaside hotel and use the material to fill in lands which are to be reclaimed. The scope of the operations would extend for a considerable distance toward the reef, possibly beyond the present location of the diving platforms. It would also be several hundred feet long.

It is contended that with the removal of the coral the action of the ocean would soon build up a floor with a fine, sandy bottom, as well as deepen the basin generally.

There have been several accidents, a few fatal, in which bathers have dived off the platforms and struck coral outgrowths. There have also been countless cases of bruised and cut feet due to contact with the sharp coral of the basin.

Provided the project is decided upon, there is a possibility that actual dredging operations would begin shortly after the work on the canal is started, which will be soon after the first of the year.

In connection with the dredging, the stream which empties into the ocean between the Outrigger club and the Moana hotel, and which has been a nuisance for years, will be done away with.

"I am certainly in favor of the scheme," Chairman Lyman H. Bigelow of the harbor board said today. "It will make a real beach and a fine swimming pool with a sandy bottom and, in fact, put Waikiki on the map."

Chairman Bigelow explains that by making this work a part of the general canal scheme is the only way in which the project could be carried out, as there are no other funds available for such purpose.