

West Beach resort set to kick off

By Anne Harpham
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Groundbreaking is scheduled for 4 p.m. Tuesday for Herbert Horita's \$2 billion resort at West Beach, called Ko Olina.

The project, a joint venture with the giant Japanese con-

struction firm Kumagai Gumi, is to be built over the next 20 years or so in Ewa.

Ko Olina (meaning "fulfillment of joy") is to have 11 hotels, condominiums, private residences, a yachting marina, four man-made beaches, a golf course, five parks and a commercial area, a Kumagai Gumi spokesman told United Press International in Tokyo yesterday.

Kumagai Gumi spokesman Masanori Kimoto said the first phase of the 1,015-acre West Beach resort is to be completed in 1995.

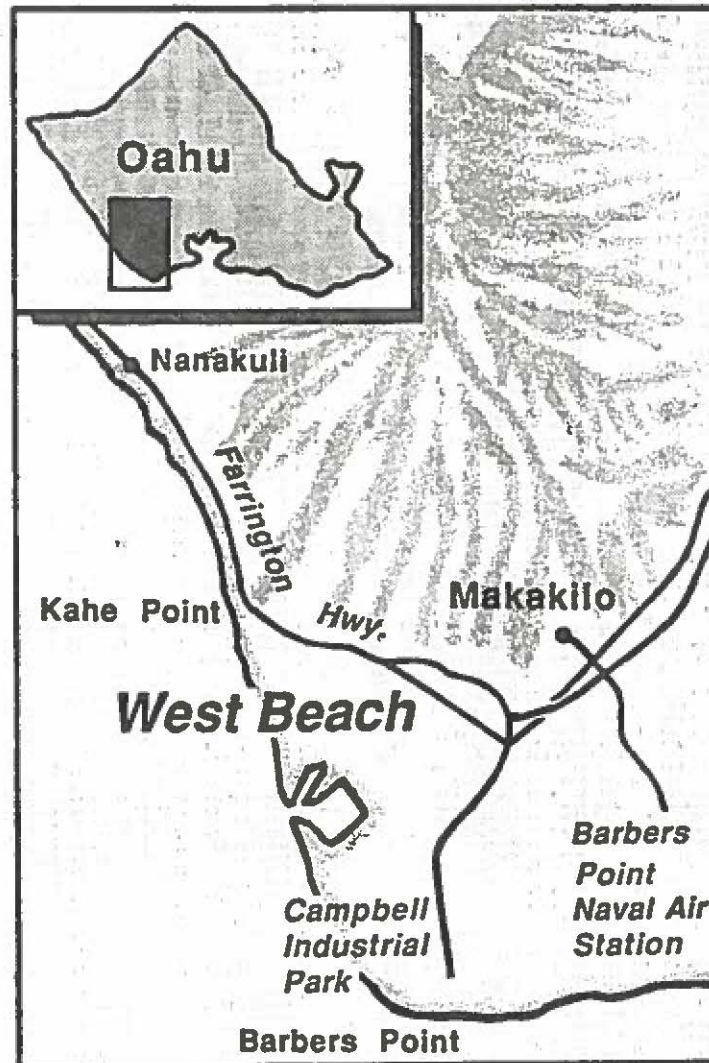
When completed, the resort will have 4,000 hotel rooms catering to affluent travelers, said Kumagai Gumi.

Herbert K. Horita Realty refused to discuss the project, saying a press release would be issued Monday.

Kumagai Gumi's statements about the long-planned and much-discussed West Beach project garnered attention in Tokyo this week because construction has emerged as a new irritant in the ongoing U.S.-Japanese trade dispute. Washington has been urging Tokyo to allow American construction firms to do business in Japan.

Kumagai Gumi is involved in a number of Hawaii projects, including Christopher Hemmeter's massive Hyatt Regency Waikoloa resort. The project is said to be the largest single private project in the state.

The Japanese construction firm also is the general contractor for Hemmeter's Westin Kauai and Westin Maui hotels, and is involved in a joint venture with Hemmeter and TSA International Inc. for two hotels at Wailea on Maui.



A U.S. trade delegation sent last month to pave the way for American companies to take part in the \$6.5 billion Osaka airport project noted Japanese construction firms secured \$1.8 billion in contracts in the United States last year, while their American counterparts won none in Japan.