

... So many of us spend so much of our time enjoying the beaches. . . . Despite that, the people of Hawaii have not yet taken responsibility for this resource."

— Marine geologist Charles Fletcher



Advertiser photo by Bruce Asato

Kristin Brown of the U.S. Geological Survey takes a reading from a boat probing underwater contours at Nanakuli Beach Park.

## Saving our vanishing beaches

Researchers look to preserve shorelines

By **Walter Wright**  
Advertiser Staff Writer

**EWA BEACH** — Bruce Richmond and Charles "Chip" Fletcher and their crew were splashing in the water at Ewa Beach Park with the kind of sur-

veying instruments that make people fear construction is coming.

Their real mission: study beach erosion. Their ultimate goal: stop Hawaii's beaches from vanishing.

And the beachgoers at Ewa, after learning that Richmond and Fletcher aren't planning on building a highway into the ocean, applauded their effort.

It comes none too soon.

"I'm glad they're here," said beachgoer Francis Bueno. "You can tell the

sand has been washing away."

In the past 70 years, eight to nine miles of Oahu's beaches, 15 percent of the total sandy shoreline on the island, have been lost entirely or narrowed to the point where recreation is impossible.

The two coastal marine geologists, one from the U.S. Geological Survey and the other from the University of

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