

Abandoned Boats at Maunalua Bay

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Popular Maunalua Bay in Hawaii Kai is once again gathering attention for misuse and abuse.

Area residents say abandoned vessels and boats that are not properly moored are proving to be much more than just an eye sore.

"December 31 it's been here on the sand right here today is January 6th, we still waiting for the tow truck," said long-time Maunalua Bay resident Marshall Rosa. Rosa says grounded vessels at Maunalua Bay are becoming all too familiar. "If we had one accident with a semi-truck on H1 on December 30th we wait to January 4th to come back to work to pull it off the freeway, I don't think so."

This sailboat had the proper permits in place to be moored at Maunalua Bay -- a designated mooring area --- but strong southwesterly winds eventually washed the vessel to the beach on New Year's Eve along with debris and other personal items.



"The toilet was on the beach I took pictures of that its tanks was on the beach," said Rosa. "Bunch of people picked up, you know I picked up myself but my rubbish can can only take so much."

Rosa says the state is not doing its part to protect the bay and its users.

"That mast fall down on somebody walking by here and gets killed we in trouble again."

"This particular owner doesn't have the wherewithal to remove the vessel so we're in the process now of getting the bids to get the boat off the beach," said Ed Underwood of the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation.

The state will use monies from its boating special fund to pay for the removal. The fund comes from user fees collected at boat harbors.

"Poor guy from Waianae has nothing to do with it but he's got to pay for this too," said Rosa.

"Hawaii Kai is not a bone yard for abandoned boats it's a recreational area for people who want to use it for sport and not for parking," said state representative Gene Ward who believes the state needs a new solution to what's become a national issue. "It's basically a fund where in these instances come up DLNR does not have to put it out to bid to get somebody to yank it away. I think a lot of these are just bidding their time and let the state pick up the tab the way the abandon vehicles."

The state says a contractor will be hired by the end of the week.

"It's a problem and I think the state has got to make it easier on themselves," said Rosa.