

Kimo's Cove Clean-up

May 2024

During the second week of May 2024, our lake area experienced a number of rain storms that stimulated opening of the beach berm by the City and County of Honolulu. With the berm open, lake levels dropped during low tide periods which more prominently exposed some of the built-up trash in Kimo's Cove. That cove area has been problematic for many years. On May 14th, the ELRA board got a request from the residents of the cove to try a clean-up while the lake bottom areas were more exposed. ELRA responded the next day by engaging our clean-up contractor. We used the recently constructed lake clean up barges to support a 5-day cleaning effort involving Sean Connell (our contractor) and another paid helper (Kalani Kollars). Joining the effort was Greg Colbert of the ELRA board and Jim Scofield, a resident of the cove. Wanda Scofield provided some great lunches for the crew.

We purchased additional long handled tools, nets and a large amount of trash bags. Over the five days, we removed some 250-300 bags of mud coated debris. In essence, the cleaning became a manual mini-dredging operation. The effort resulted in a stunning change to the cove. The pictures and narratives which follow help describe the clean-up effort.

The pictures below show the cove in its low-water condition before the clean-up began. The debris was visible during higher water, but the lower water status provided a great access opportunity. A video not provided in this summary shows the cove in beautiful shape after the clean-up.



We towed the clean up barges into the cove to provide work platforms for cleaning. Sean Connell is on the left. Kalani Kollars is on the right.



The muck was disgusting but attracted foraging by the lake waterfowl. Mangroves were pulled as well.



Slowly, progress was made.



Nets were useful for getting the floating material. Eventually, it started looking much better.



Lots of bags were removed. We estimate more than 250.



Then we pulled the barges back to Greg's house to start another project to disassemble a derelict lake barge.

