

## **Kahului Harbor (Kahului, Maui)**

### **General Description**

Kahului Harbor is located on the south side of Kauhului Bay on the north coast of the island of Maui. The commercial deep-water port of Kahului is on the southeast side of Kahului Harbor. The harbor is protected by two rubblemound breakwaters which extend outward from the east and west shores and enclose an area of about 200 acres. The entrance to the harbor is in deep water from the north through a 600-foot-wide opening between the outer ends of the breakwaters. The channel then turns sharply southeast to the Kahului Piers. The channel and basin are maintained at or near a 35-foot depth. The west part of the inner harbor is shallow.

Waihee Reef extends 0.7-mile northwest of the breakwaters, and Spartan Reef extends 1.2 miles northeast of the breakwaters. The shoreline between the piers consists of fine-grained sand beaches. The southwest shoreline is gravelly. The prevailing winds are the northeast trades, and harbor currents are weak.

Kahului has regular interisland barge service and is a port of call for transpacific vessels. The Kahului Airport is nearby. Large vessels may anchor outside the breakwaters. Small craft have plenty of anchorage room in the unimproved areas behind the breakwaters. Vessels approaching the harbor entrance need to avoid the reefs.

Product loading at Kahului Harbor occurs at Pier 3 located on the eastern side of the harbor within the commercial basin.

### **Equipment**

Located in the State Harbors Pilot Boat house shore end of Pier 1.

### **Response Plan**

#### **General Comments**

1. The prevailing wind is the northeasterly tradewinds which will tend to push the spill toward Pier 2.
2. Initial efforts should be designed to contain the spill at the source or within the commercial basin area of the Harbor.
3. Additional efforts may be required to prevent the spill from moving beyond the end of Pier 2.
4. Additional efforts may be required to divert spill away from hotel beaches and contain and recover the spill offshore.

### **Response Action Points**

In the event of a spill of typical historical proportions the initial response is to:

- A. Deploy boom to contain source at fuel dock. Deploy boom-anchoring systems to hold the back end of the boom and contain the spill within the commercial basin. (It is important to work with the prevailing wind.)
- B. In the event that Kona winds are blowing, boom should be anchored to anchor point at Pier 1 and pulled across the commercial basin toward Pier 2.
- C. Conduct open water containment and recovery operations.
- D. Contain and control spill movement along shoreline with sandbag groins.

### **Areas of Sensitivity**

Sandy beaches are located along southern portions of the harbor near the hotels.

Outside the harbor there are Green Sea Turtle nesting areas.

The Kahana Waterfowl Refuge Area is located just inland.

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