

## Pā'ia Mantokuji Soto Mission Shoreline Adaption Project

Located at 253 Hana Highway, Maui, Hawai'i, TMK: (2) 2-6-008:013

Key Messaging Document

September 2022

The Pā'ia Mantokuji Soto Mission is a Soto Zen Buddhist temple founded in 1906 by a community of Japanese immigrants. The temple's mission is to be a place of compassion, respect, and kindness for all who seek truth through the teachings of Buddha, the practice of Zen meditation and arts, and the fellowship of the temple sangha. Pā'ia Mantokuji's short-term vision is to stay in place in Pā'ia, grow, develop and mitigate erosion. Located on Maui's North Shore, the present 8.3-acre site was purchased in 1912. A three-acre cemetery is situated on the western makai edge of the property. Community events are held at the site including meditations, religious teachings, and ceremonies.

### **Project Overview:**

This property has been experiencing severe coastal erosion that is increasingly endangering public safety. The shoreline adaptation project is intended to reduce this threat by stabilizing nearshore conditions.

The proposed shoreline adaptation project includes installing emergency temporary erosion control structures along the uppermost portion of the beach profile, seaward of the property. The installation will help retain unstable soils and slow progression of active shoreline erosion, which is approaching the foundation of the historic Soto Zen Buddhist temple.

The proposed erosion control is intended as a short-term mitigation measure, which will remain in place for about three years. The temple is also engaged in a complex long-term planning process. Among the long-term options being considered are restoring the protective beach in Mantokuji Bay, retrofitting the temple to accommodate future coastal hazards, and relocating or demolishing other structures if necessary.

**Where:** The Mantokuji Mission property is in Mantokuji Bay on the North Shore of Maui in the town of Pā'ia, at 253 Hana Highway, TMK (2) 2-6-008:013. A historic Soto Zen Buddhist temple is situated on the eastern portion of the property, while the western side contains a cemetery. Shoreline erosion control work will occur along roughly one-quarter of the property's shoreline boundary.



**Figure 1:** Photograph taken in January 2020, showing the erosion escarpment in proximity to the temple. At the time, the erosion escarpment was approximately 18 feet from the structure. Today it is much closer.

**Why:** The beach and shoreline at the property has been chronically eroding and much of the previously documented sandy beach is already lost. Without a beach to buffer coastal forces, inland areas are exposed to greater hazards including flooding, wave uprush and scouring. Some of the sand lost from the depleted beach was used to construct Maui County public infrastructure. In 1933, the Mantokuji Mission granted the County of Maui "a right to take and remove from the makai portion of the property... beach sand in such quantities as may be required... in the building, repair and maintenance of public roads and in the erection and construction of public works." Significant wave events, including a 1946 tsunami, may also have removed significant volumes of sand from the Mantokuji embayment. Recently, more frequent King Tides and sea level rise have accelerated the erosion damage. Shoreline armoring structures constructed on near-by properties could have also contributed to the erosion patterns. Since natural sources of sand are unable to balance the losses, a coastal adaptation plan is needed to address worsening shoreline hazards.

**Who:** The project is led by the Board of Directors of the Mantokuji Mission, who has engaged Oceanit for engineering assessment, agency coordination and construction administration services related to the temporary hazard mitigation. Cmac Excavation LLC. (CMAC) has been contracted to construct the emergency temporary erosion control structure. Cultural Surveys Hawai'i, Inc. (CSH) has been contracted to prepare an Archaeological Monitoring Plan (AMP) for the project construction. Architects Hawaii Ltd. (AHL) has been contracted to develop plans for the future disposition of temple structures / buildings.

**What:** To ensure safe and responsible construction, Best Management Practices (BMPs) will first be installed to reduce the risks of work activities to the environment. Access to the project site will be established from the property onto the beach. Displaced headstones and other cemetery-related artifacts will be removed from the beach zone and preserved at an inland location on the property. Existing man-made debris will be cleaned off the beach and disposed of offsite.



**Figure 2:** Photograph taken in January 2019, showing the eroded shoreline with exposed debris and fallen headstones.

The contractor will build the temporary erosion control structure by first stacking existing beach cobble stones at the base of the escarpment to form a level pad. Next, geotextile fabric filled with imported beach-compatible sand will be used to create a step-like design along approximately 112 linear feet of shoreline. At its base, the width of the proposed fabric structure will be about seven feet. The plan minimizes the disturbance of the existing soils in Mantokuji property. An archaeological monitor will observe work that may impact cultural resources.

**How:** The Mantokuji Mission will retain a contractor (CMAC) to construct the emergency temporary erosion control structure according to the approved plans and permits and under Oceanit's observation. All permit approvals have been obtained. The project has obtained the required State and County permit approvals. See Table 1 for a permit summary.

**Table 1: Project permit summary, as of August 2022.**

<u>PERMIT</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>LEVEL</u>	<u>ISSUED</u>	<u>APPROVED</u>
Emergency CDUP MA 21-10	DLNR OCCL *	State	05/12/2021	N/A
Emergency CDUP MA 21-10 (Extension)	DLNR OCCL	State	04/26/2022	N/A
Revocable Permit #8BG6J1CLUBNM	DLNR Land Division	State		04/08/2022
Right -Of -Entry Permit 4516 (PSF: 21MD-088)	DLNR Land Division	State	07/12/2022	N/A
Archaeological Monitoring Plan (Doc. No.: 2207AM19)	DLNR SHPD **	State	N/A	08/15/2022
SMA Minor Permit SMX 2020/0158, SM2 2020/0095, SSA 2020/0025, EAE 2020/0066	Department of Planning	County	11/12/2020	N/A

\* DLNR = *Department of Land and Natural Resources*

OCCL = *Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands*

\*\* *State Historic Preservation Division*

**When:** Construction will begin in September 2022. The construction duration is approximately eight weeks, dependent on the site conditions at that time.

**Funding:** The project will be financially supported using private funds raised by the Mantokuji Mission.

**Contact:** This document was prepared to communicate the important aspects of the Mantokuji Mission project with the news media, public, neighbors, and other community stakeholders. For general information regarding the Pā'ia Mantokuji Soto Mission, please contact Mr. Eric Moto, Board President, at [ehmoto@msn.com](mailto:ehmoto@msn.com). Questions or comments regarding this shoreline adaption project are welcome at any time and can be submitted to Dr. Mike Foley, P.E., Sr. Coastal Engineer at Oceanit, at [mfoley@oceanit.com](mailto:mfoley@oceanit.com).