

HONOLULU HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT
SURVEYED PROPERTY CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

TMK: **21001056**

Historic Status: **Evaluated Eligible**

Portion of Alignment: **Koko Head portion**

Resource Name/Historic Name: **Harbor retaining wall of coral blocks from Honolulu Fort**

Sector: **23 Chinatown Station Sector**

Location: **Pier 12**

Owner: **STATE OF HAWAII, DOT, HARBORS DIVISION**

Station Block:

Date-Original: **ca. 1859**

Source: **Beechert, Edward D. *Honolulu: Crossroads of the Pacific*. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1991. p. 101.
Cheever, David and Scott, *Pohaku*. Honolulu: Editions Limited, 2003, p. 69.**

Present Use/Historic Use: **remnant of wharf**

Architectural Description:

Varying sizes of rectangular coral blocks (typically 20" x 30" x 8") stacked with the remains of mortar in some joints at the end of Pier 12. The blocks extend about 65' along the end of the pier and project about 10' out into the harbor. The blocks are exposed about 2' at a typical low tide.

Integrity:

The underlying coral blocks appear to remain in their original positions from the time of retaining wall/ wharf construction.

Significance:

Criterion "D" - as a primary source of information on early harbor retaining wall and wharf construction in Honolulu. These coral blocks are the remains of the building material of Honolulu Fort (1817-1857). When it was demolished, the blocks were used to construct a harbor retaining wall which allowed new waterfront land behind it. By 1897 a wharf about 300' long and called Brewer's Wharf, one of three between Maunakea and Kaahumanu Streets, was built out into the harbor on the site of Pier 12. After 1963 this wharf was shortened, to project only about 125' into the harbor. This exposed the coral blocks from the foundation of the wharf, now at the end of the pier.

