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“Dr. Beach” Names Hawaii’s Waimanalo Bay Beach Park America’s Best

Miami, FL—Waimanalo Bay Beach Park is the number one beach in the 25th annual Top 10 Beach List, produced by coastal expert Dr. Stephen P. Leatherman, professor at Florida International University.

Waimanalo Bay Beach Park is located in the northeastern corner of Oahu in the countryside and is often missed by tourists as they cruise through the small village. Waimanalo Bay is Oahu’s longest beach--extending for more than five miles; it is a great for walking and beachcombing in the soft white sand. The wind is always blowing onshore because of the Trade Winds, making it safe for sail boats. This sandy coral beach slopes gently into the turquoise oceanic waters. Be cautious when swimming offshore because the ocean deepens fairly quickly, and strong currents are sometimes present. Look for the lifeguard tower so that you can swim in protected waters. There are restrooms and showers along with shady areas courtesy of the ironwood trees. In addition to swimming, the shallow sand bar provides for good body-boarding.

TOP 10 BEACHES 2015

1. Waimanalo Bay Beach Park
Oahu, Hawaii
2. Barefoot Beach
Bonita Springs, Florida
3. St. George Island State Park
Florida panhandle
4. Hamoa Beach, Maui, Hawaii
5. Cape Hatteras, Outer Banks of
North Carolina
6. Cape Florida State Park
Key Biscayne, Florida
7. Coast Guard Beach
Cape Cod, Massachusetts
8. Beachwalker Park
Kiawah Island, South Carolina
9. Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park
Naples, Florida
10. East Beach, Santa Barbara,
California

As “Dr. Beach” (www.DrBeach.org), Leatherman has selected the annual Top 10 Beaches since 1991; past National Winners are retired and listed on the web site. Fifty criteria are used to evaluate beaches, which include water and sand quality as well as safety and management. Dr. Leatherman is an internationally known coastal scientist who has published 19 books and hundreds of scientific articles and reports about storm impacts, coastal erosion and ways to improve beach health and safety.

More emphasis is being placed on environmental management and beach safety. Bonus points are awarded for prohibition of smoking on beaches. Oahu is leading the way as smoking at all beaches on this Hawaiian island is now banned.

Additional Online Resources:

Biography for Dr. Stephen P. Leatherman: <http://www.drbeach.org/pressreleases/CV.pdf>
Photographs: www.drbeach.org/mediakit.htm
Dr. Beach’s 50 Criteria: www.drbeach.org/50criteria.htm