



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

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**HAPUNA, WAIALEA PARKS ALONG KOHALA COAST REOPENED TODAY
WARNING SIGNS STILL POSTED AT SPENCER BEACH PARK**

KONA, HAWAI'I — Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), the Hawaii Fire Department Ocean Safety Division and the Hawai'i County Department of Parks and Recreation have reopened Waialea Bay and Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area (SRA) today following a morning flyover that did not reveal the presence of large sharks in nearshore waters in these two areas. DLNR parks and aquatics staff will continue to monitor these beach areas.

However the Hawaii County Fire Dept. Water Safety Division said that there were 10 to 15 sharks seen north of Spencer Beach Park between Spencer and Kawaihae Harbor. Shark warning signs are posted today at Spencer Beach Park warning people to stay out of the water -- however, the park is open. A reassessment will be done tomorrow in the morning.

“Even though two of these beaches are open, we continue to urge people to always exercise caution when entering the ocean,” said Laura H. Thielen, DLNR Chairperson.

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