



Advertiser photo by Gregory Yamamoto

This driftnet was discovered partly buried in the sand about a mile north of Kualoa Regional Park.

Milelong 'wall of death' washes ashore on Oahu

By Kevin Dayton
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About a mile of drift gill net washed ashore near Kualoa Regional Park in what is believed to be the largest piece of the notorious "walls of death" ever found in Hawaii waters, a spokeswoman for the Department of Land and Natural Resources said.

The net was discovered partly buried in the sand about a mile north of Kualoa Regional Park, and apparently had not been floating loose for very long, said Bill Paty, chairman of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

A city work crew loaded the net and Styrofoam floats into a dump truck along with a cargo net, garbage, fishhooks and seaweed that had become tangled in the net, and plans to bury the

10/24/91
mess in a city landfill, said Linda McCreery, the department's public information officer.

Paty said the milelong length of three-inch gauge net probably tore loose during a storm, and serves as a reminder that driftnets "are out there, and they're chewing on our fishing resource."

"It can sit outside our best (fishing) areas for who knows how long," he said.

Paty said he suspects that the net was dropped inside the 200-mile U.S. territorial limit, which is prohibited. Department officials will study the net, but Paty said he does not believe it can be traced.

The driftnets are banned within 200 miles of Hawaii because they destroy aquatic life by snaring everything in their path, including fish, dolphins, endangered turtles and seals.