Character and Origin of the Beaches of Hawaii Island:

Reflections of the Big Island’s Geologic Youthfulness and Climate

The geologically very young Big Island of Hawaii constitutes 63% of the archipelago’s land area, yet its 500 km perimeter possesses less than 5% of the island chain’s sandy beaches. Many of the island’s unique black, green and white sandy beaches are famous on a global scale. However, they merely represent sedimentary products resulting from unique combinations of normal geological processes. Quantitative petrographic analyses of the diverse coastal deposits document the controlling aspects of the high volcanic island’s youthful geologic complexity in combination with its trade wind-dominated climatic setting.

The 2015 annual meeting of the Hawaii Shore & Beach Preservation Association will immediately follow the presentation (at 3:30 p.m.)