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Dust and debris settled Thursday after demolition of a large section of the Aloha Stadium continued in Halawa.

More sections of Aloha Stadium toppled

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Dismantlement of the old Aloha Stadium remains on schedule despite the Kona-low storms of recent weeks, developers said Thursday, after a large section of the 50,000-seat structure was pulled down by Aloha Halawa District Partners, the private entity in partnership with the state in the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District project.

“Fortunately we were at a stage of work that the storms did not affect,” said Justin Lui, AHDP’s project manager for demolition of the stadium so that a new one can be built on the same site. “There are always a lot of variables, but we are still on schedule.”

The big picture timeline calls for completion of the new stadium in spring 2029, with seating for at least 31,000. AHDP, responsible for design, building, operations and maintenance of the new facility, has received \$375 million from the state, along with the responsibility to develop and opportunity to profit from real estate surrounding the



The entire makai section of Aloha Stadium, including the press box, was demolished during this phase using a “rollover” maneuver executed by Hawaiian Dredging Construction Co. and Aloha Halawa District Partners.

stadium, totaling 98 acres. Stadium dismantlement started Feb. 17 with a blessing and the tearing down of one of the facility’s four walkway spirals. Since then, the other spirals and concourse walkways have been torn down.

The first large section of seating came down last week. The other half of the makai-side seating was pulled down Thursday, as former University of Hawaii

football coach June Jones, and members of the current staff including head coach Timmy Chang and assistants Chris Brown and Derek Fa’avi — UH players who starred at Aloha Stadium more than 25 years ago — observed. UH President Wendy Hensel also viewed the dismantlement.

“Likely be done by November,” said Lui, noting that includes removal of the tons of metal debris from

the site. “By the end of the summer, the structure will be taken down. Much of it will still need to be cut up into smaller pieces and taken away in a controlled manner.”

AHDP entity Hawaiian Dredging Construction Co., with subcontractor North-west Demolition & Dismantling, is at centerstage of the NASED project now.

“By August, all you will see is concrete,” AHDP

leader Stanford Carr said. “I’m a professional optimist.”

Concrete from the original stadium end zone sides is still usable for the new one. The tons of steel is not.

“The metal is rusted through. That steel is being hauled offsite and sold,” Lui said. “A lot of people might ask why we don’t use it. They have to remember why it’s being taken down in the first place. It can’t support the weight of people.”

Aiea community leader and Stadium Authority board member Claire Tamamoto has kept a close eye on the dismantlement, and the years of NASED’s planning.

“The water they spray (during and after dismantlement) gets the debris out of the air quickly,” she said.

She said NASED’s lead project manager, Kaloa Robinson of Carr’s company, appeared at a recent Aiea Community Association meeting.

“He was very good at addressing concerns and answering questions from people who live in the area,” Tamamoto said.

Jones, UH’s most successful football coach, led the

Warriors at their Aloha Stadium home field from 1999 to 2007.

“There’s a lot more that still needs to be done,” he said. “But Stanford knows how to get things done in Hawaii.”

Brown played at Aloha Stadium as a high school athlete at Damien and then as a UH standout defensive lineman and linebacker with Jones as coach, and as record-setting quarterback Chang’s teammate.

“This is bittersweet, a lot of mixed emotions. The ground was shaking and you couldn’t hear yourself talk when 50,000 were there,” said Brown after seeing a massive part of the old stadium come down. “But I did salvage the two seats that my parents sat in, and I got a couple of nice pieces of the turf and gave one to Timmy for Christmas. It’s time for the new stadium and to move forward.”



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