

NĀ HONOKŌHAU – NĀ HONO I NĀ HAU ‘ELUA (HONOKŌHAU – BAYS OF THE TWO WIND-BORN DEWS)

VOLUME I: A REPORT ON ARCHIVAL-HISTORICAL DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH, AND ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS FOR THE AHUPUA‘A OF HONOKŌHAU NUI & IKI



***Honokōhau Village (ca. 1915) at Kekaha, North Kona, Hawai‘i; Rev. Albert S. Baker Collection, No. N-B121
(Courtesy of the Hawaiian Mission Children’s Society Library, Mission Houses Museum)***

***NĀ HONOKŌHAU – NĀ HONO I NĀ HAU ‘ELUA
(HONOKŌHAU – BAYS OF THE TWO WIND-BORN DEWS):
HONOKŌHAU AT KEKAHA,
NORTH KONA, HAWAI‘I***

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DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH, AND
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS
FOR THE AHUPUA‘A OF HONOKŌHAU NUI & IKI***

***Prepared In Conjunction with an
Environmental Impact Statement –
Land Use Boundary Amendment Application
(TMK 7-4-08: por. 13 and 30)***

BY

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PREPARED FOR

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*Historical & Archival Documentary Research • Oral History Studies • Partnerships in
Cultural Resources Management • Developing Preservation Plans and Interpretive Programs*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the request of Lanihau Partners, L.P., cultural resources specialist, Kepā Maly (*Kumu Pono Associates*), conducted a study of archival documents and historical literature for the lands of Honokōhau nui and Honokōhau iki in the district of North Kona, on the island of Hawai‘i (TMK overview sheet 7-4). As a part of the study, Maly also conducted oral history interviews (reported in *Volume II* of this study) with descendants of the native Hawaiian families and others who are known to be familiar with the natural and cultural landscape and history of land use in Honokōhau and the neighboring lands of the larger Kekaha region of which the Honokōhau lands are a part. This study was conducted in conjunction with preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement - Land Use Boundary Amendment Application.

The application study area contains approximately 336 acres (TMK 7-4-08: por. 13 and 30), and is situated on the lower mid-plain lands (*ko kula kai*) of Honokōhau nui & iki, immediately *mauka* of the Queen Ka‘ahumanu Highway. The elevational range of the study area extends from approximately the 40 foot to 360 feet above sea level.

A portion of Honokōhau nui, *makai* of the Ka‘ahumanu Highway, which fronts the project area, has been incorporated into the Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park. The park land was once owned by the Greenwell family (historic and current owners of the project area and other lands *mauka* of the study area). Because of cultural-historical interest in the Honokōhau lands, and their context in the larger *ahupua‘a* (native land unit) and region of Kekaha, the study includes documentation that places Honokōhau in a regional context.

Study Methodology

The work conducted as a part of this study included three basic components: (1) research and report findings from archival and historical literature; (2) conduct oral history interviews and consultation with *kama‘āina* (native residents) and others with knowledge of the land; and (3) document primary comments and recommendations for site treatment made by interview- and consultation- program participants (also incorporating an overview of findings reported in an archaeological inventory study {Robbins et al. 1998} prepared for the project area).

In the period between August 15th to October 8th, 1999, Maly and Smith conducted research of archival-historical literature housed in private and public collections. Documentation cited in this study include nineteenth century records of the Hawaiian Kingdom—such as government records of land tenure, roadways, public lands and public facilities—and native and foreign accounts authored in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, many of which have not received broad exposure in the past.

The oral historical and consultation components of this study were conducted between September 28th 1999 to February 28, 2000, and are reported in *Volume II* of the study. *Volume II* includes interviews and consultation records with 19 individuals in 15 interviews (including four historic interviews conducted in 1962). All of the interview participants have lived upon or worked the lands of Honokōhau nui and iki, and provide documentation gained from personal experiences dating back to the 1890s. Several of the interview participants are descended from families who lived at Honokōhau since at least the 1840s.

Study Organization

This study is divided into two Volumes, each with several primary sections by subject matter, and accompanying sub-sections. The primary sections of the study include:

Volume I:

- An introduction to the study methodology and general overview of Hawaiian settlement and land use practices.
- Detailed documentation found as a result of the archival and historical literature research; including important historical documentation written by native and non-Hawaiian authors.
- An overview of historical studies and archaeological research conducted in the Honokōhau-Kekaha region between 1907 to 1998.

Volume II:

- Introduction to study methodology.
- An overview of oral historical interviews and consultation records of the Honokōhau study area.
- An overview of primary site treatment recommendations (including site interpretation) for sites and within the Honokōhau study area.
- Released oral history interview transcripts.

Overview of Documentation Recorded

In the Oral History Interviews and Consultation Program

Oral history-consultation program participants included the following individuals (in alphabetical order): Valentine K. Ako, Geraldine K. Bell, Stanley Bond, James M. Greenwell, L. R. “Rally” Greenwell and Patricia Gilman-Greenwell, J. Kinoulou Kahananui, John H. Kailiwai, Norman Keanaaina, Malaea Keanaaina-Tolentino, Agnes Puakalehua Nihi Harp (with Isaac Harp), Violet Leimomi Nihi-Quiddaoen, Robert K. Punihaole, D. Kahelemauna “Mauna” Roy, and Al Kaleio‘umiwai Simmons.

Also, historical interviews, conducted by Mary Kawena Pukui of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, were recorded in 1962 (in the Oral History Collection of the Bishop Museum). Among the interview participants were Lowell Keli‘iahonui Punihaole and his wife Mary Peahi-Punihaole; Joseph Kahananui; Makapini Simeona (Kanakamaika‘i); and Mahone Ka‘eo; all of whom lived on, and/or worked the lands of Honokōhau in the early part of the twentieth century. Excerpts from these interviews (translated by Kepā Maly), in which traditional and historical information regarding Honokōhau is discussed, are cited in *Volume II*.

Participants in the oral history interview and consultation program (herein after interviewees) conducted as a part of this study were asked to share recollections of the history of the land and practices of the residents (their elder family members). They were also asked if they had concerns, thoughts, and recommendations, regarding the proposed development of the study area parcel in Honokōhau nui. Responses regarding traditional cultural sites in the project area parcel were of a general nature. With the exception of the *Alanui Aupuni* (Old Government Road), no one shared knowledge of specific sites in the project area.

All interviewees recorded that in the early twentieth century, residency and life in the two Honokōhau focused on activities that took place on the shore, or in the uplands, with little activity on the lower *kula* (flatlands or plains extending to the mountain). Activities of area residents ranged from working the fishponds and off-shore fisheries with families living on the shore at the small village in Honokōhau Iki; and in the uplands, where *kalo* (taro), *‘ulu* (breadfruit), *‘uala* (sweet potatoes), coffee and other crops were grown; and where ranching operations were centered. The latter activities generally occurred in the area extending *mauka* from the Palani Road – Māmalahoa Highway vicinity.

Two sisters (V. Leimomi Nihi-Quiddaoen and A. Puakalehua Nihi-Harp), descendants of the Kalua-Kau‘i‘a-Kimona Kuakahela line, shared that in their youth (ca. 1930), they went with their *mākua-kūpuna* (parent-grandparent) generation to some areas, which they believe to be above the present-day Ka‘ahumanu Highway (in line with the Kaloko Industrial Park), to cultivate *‘uala* (sweet potatoes) and other crops which could be grown in pockets of soil and mulched planting areas on the lava flats of the lower *kula* (flatlands). Because the families from whom these sisters are descended, resided in Honokōhau iki, and the families maintained residences in the uplands of Honokōhau iki (on Grant 3022) and on the shore, between ‘Ai‘opio Fishpond and the *pā ilina* (family cemetery) on the *‘a‘ā* near the Honokōhau nui & iki boundary, it is believed that the *kula* planting fields were in Honokōhau iki.

The Greenwell brothers and others who resided in the Honokōhau vicinity, all recorded that except for occasional excursions into the lowland *kula* (generally undertaken as a part of the ranch operations), little or no travel occurred via trails in Honokōhau nui for as long as the interviewees can remember (dating to ca. 1915). Travel via *mauka-makai* trails in Honokōhau iki-Kealakehe; lateral shore line travel between Honokōhau and Kailua; and *mauka-makai* travel between Honokōhau to upland Kohanaiki (the trail crossed through Kaloko) did take place.

While interviewees were not able to share site specific documentation for resources within the 336 acre study area parcel, many of them expressed concern for the sites which may have been found as a result of archaeological work in the field. The interviewees concurred with the preservation of sites with *ilina* (human remains), sections of the old *mauka-makai* trail, and other sites as recommended as a result of the field work. It was also suggested that some of the sites within the study area may receive some level of interpretation (tying in with the interpretation of Kaloko-Honokōhau). An agreement is also being worked on to curate any artifacts which may be discovered on the parcel in the Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park collection (thus remaining on the land of origin).

Two primary concerns regarding the proposed development were raised by National Park Service staff and David Kahelemauna Roy (of *Nā Kōkua*); (1) ensuring that the development would not adversely impact water quality of the Kaloko-Honokōhau Fishponds and anchialine pond resources; and (2) that the development not appear to be looming over the park resources.

Upon learning of these concerns, the author notified William Moore (project planner), and Mr. Moore initiated dialog with the interested parties.

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