## Assessment of Traditional Cultural Practices Related to Burial Sites

Hokulia Project, South Kona, Hawaii Island

Burial Sites Program
History and Culture Branch
State Historic Preservation Division
Department of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii

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skull. (Peter Buck, Te Rangi Hiroa, 1957, Death and Burial, Arts and Crafts of Hawaii, Bernice P. Bishop Museum, p. 567)

The practice of keeping portions of your loved one's remains in close proximity is a traditional Hawaiian practice.

#### Kanu

The concept of kanu, or literally "to plant" your 'ohana into the ground is a traditional Hawaiian practice.

#### Ho'omoe Pü

Associated with kanu is placing items with the dead. These burial goods are known as  $moe p\bar{u}$ . The placing of items with the departed is a traditional Hawaiian practice.

#### **Burial Near Home**

Iwi of family members were often buried in or around the place of dwelling to provide a sense of proximity for both security and companionship.

Occasionally they buried their dead in sequestered places, at a short distance from their habitations, but frequently in their gardens, and sometimes in their houses. Their graves were not deep, and the bodies were usually placed in them in a sitting posture. (William Ellis, 1827, From the Journal of William Ellis, p. 259)

Under house burials were probably chosen as a security, though instances are known where affection was the prime motive. (Abraham Fornander, Traditional Stories: Relating to the Dead in Ancient Time, p. 570)

These views are supported by archaeological evidence today where burials are found directly incorporated into house platforms. Burying loved ones under or near one's home is a traditional Hawaiian practice.

#### **Close Family Prepare Burial**

For Hawaiians, death and dying was a family matter. Only close family members or most trusted companions were allowed to handle and provide proper disposition of the dead.

Until morticians were generally accepted, only close relatives prepared the body for burial.

And for any Hawaiian, the body was exposed only to close family members. And so, just as they did in sickness, family cared for family in death. (Pukui, Vol. I, p. 134)

There is much in the available literature and in oral tradition citing this basic tenet of Hawaiian burial belief. The island burial councils have repeated over the years the importance of family in making

decisions about iwi. When family can't be found, council members act on behalf of the family in protecting their loved ones.

Chapter 6E, HRS and Chapter 13-300, HAR, both recognize the importance of family and descendants input into the disposition and treatment decisions of the dead. Even common law recognizes the role of "next of kin" in decisions regarding the disposition of human bodies. Hawaiians maintain the same feelings on a cultural basis.

The kuleana, or responsibility, of burial decisions remaining with the family is a traditional Hawaiian practice.

#### **Family Burial Areas**

Traditionally, a family had an area where they would lay to rest members of their 'ohana. Such a place could be under or near the home, in a family cave or in a portion of a sand dune. Communities also utilized common areas since many people in the community were related.

Enclosures, surrounded by high stone walls, were also employed, each family generally possessing a distinct cemetery; though sometimes the dead of a whole town were deposited in the same cave. (James Jackson Jarves, History of the Hawaiian Islands, 1872, p. 39)

This family or communal burial concept is also supported by Fornander as well as the visitation of such sites by the family:

These burial-caves seem to have been either private family property, or the property of the commune living on the land where they were situated. Offerings were frequently carried there, and prayers performed by the relatives of the deceased. (Abraham Fornander, 1980, An Account of the Polynesian Race: Its Origin and Migrations. p. 106-107)

The Reverend William Ellis also noted this practice:

Sometimes the inhabitants of a village deposited their dead in one large cavern, but in general each family had a distinct sepulchral cave. (William Ellis, 1827, From the Journal of William Ellis, p. 258)

It should be noted that as families began to move due to socio-economic reasons, and people died in different districts, there became an increased chance that some burial areas would contain the remains of different families, possibly not related to the people contained in the original interments.

This is also true of areas reported to be known battle fields where some of the dead may have come from other areas or even other islands. The same can be said of mass graves at or near *luakini heiau* in which individuals offered up as *mōhai* and interred nearby may not have been related to any families in the area.

In general, burying members of your family in a certain area, set aside for that purpose, is a traditional Hawaiian practice.

Reinecke, John E. Archaeology of Kona, Hawaii Ta plan of waps god with this

Kailua to Kalahupuaa riginal mis siy - July 1930

Kapalaalaea to Lamihan

Kahaluu

Keauhou - June 1929

Onouli (2) to Honale (Kualenui Pt.) - gre 1929 4 June 1930

Kaawalaoa Keopuka 1929

Kaawaloa - 1930

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EXHIBIT

Site 24. NENEUE HEIAU, in Kealia 2, or as it is called, Kazua. This heiau must have been one of importance, as the area pointed out as its site (which may have included the sacred precincts as well as the actual structure) was about 300' lengthwise of the beach. It stood on what is now sand beach, in front of several house lots. Nothing remains to show except a slight sand-covered elevation surrounded by a wall under an opiuma tree.

Another large heiau, HAHAPO, is reported about two miles mauka, above the road, in Kealia 1.

My informants said that there is <u>maybe</u> one more heatu in upper Kealia 2.

- Site 25. From the Catholic church about one-quarter mile south is a row of houses on the beach. The unoccupied lots usually show signs of former dwellings. Then there is a rather bare space to the Protestant church, Puukana.
- Site 26. Hookena village (Hookena and Kauhako lands) is compactly built, being wedged in by the pali. The vacant lots mostly show house platforms or other signs of occupancy within the past half century. Hookena must have contained some 50-75 dwellings. Now many houses are deserted.

  There are probably some ruins at the top of the Palianahi, but one can hardly penetrate the lantana.
- Site 27. The Kalahiki-Waiea flat was not studied with nearly the thoroughness which it deserved; I thought that I should pass through it again upon my return, and therefore neglected much of it, especially the portion a few hundred yards inland, next the pali and steep slope.

It is a very interesting area, in many ways similar to Kaawaloa-Keopuka flat, and a survey of the detailed map of the latter will explain much of the former.

The coast for about half a mile or a little over is of pahoehoe drifted in some places with white sad. A wide belt at the foot of the cliff is bare a-a. The central part of the flat is pahoehoe overlaid with a thin coat of a-a, and with a sparse vegetation of brush and creepers.

Along the coast runs a series of yards with well-built walls which, with the church, indicate a considerable population within recent times. I regret not having counted the yards fronting the sea; about half bear signs of house sites. There is a scattering growth of palms. The central section has alos some walls and a number of pens of various date and state of collapse. Two paved paths run mauka, besides other well-defined unpaved paths.

The Palianihi was certainly used for burials, as some of the caves have been boarded up. It resembles the Pali Kapu o Keoua on a small scale.

There are some considerable spaces of levelled a-a surrounded by old, low walls, and sometimes strewn with small stones, which must have been old dwelling sites. From the pali I counted three large and three or more small ones in the north half of the flat. Also two rougher old enclosures which must have been mere pens.

. /

On the beach are a few traces, and a modern shelter. The few natives whom I asked had not heard of any heiau in Kalaniki or Waiea, though I have on my list copied from Stokes: Kahauwawaka, Palianihi, Hekilinui, and Koa. One was given as by the old government road in Kalahiki, POKAA.

Site 28. The last palms are at the windmill, which being about at the Waiea boundary, makes a good starting place for another site-area. Past here the walls are all inland; I did not investigate them, but presume that they were mostly to confine animals.

Mear the windmill is a house platform about 3' high. Following it are remains of a house site; various traces; a small square platform. Then a walled lot containing a house platform. On the a-a flow hard by lot and platform, with a ruined papamu by it. A levelled quadrangle on the a-a, with small platforms by it, a dwelling site.

- Site 29. At Kapilo Bay, a site outlined by wall; small/heaps of stone; remains of platform. Steep ascent to a little plateau of the a-a flow, on which are traces of one or two sites or graves. A trail runs mauka.
- Site 30. Remains of small platform on slope of ridge. runs mauka; it is banked up on a platform at the foot of the slope. House site and wall c. 150' south. From here a good paved trail, not indicated on the government map, runs to Honokua flat.

- A

- A second of the second Site 31. At the edge of the extensive, bare flow of a-a: a wall running parallel to the shore. Other walls running at right angles. Below it, on the border of the a-a flow, three puoz platforms. Farther down are three large and two small faint a-a platforms. There is said to be a cave entrance under one of them.
- Site 32. On the uppermost of the three levels of Honokua flat: Two modern house platforms. A genuine grass house, in use recently. Two small pens side by side, a platform behind them, and a third pen behind that. An old house platform, overgrown, and back of it several remains, platforms or graves, including a long, partly natural platform.

Several helau were named as being about the vicinity, and one, KOKIHAELE, as at this place. Probably My guess is that the two small pens and the platform are the heiau.

- Site 33. The middle flat is chiefly a tangle of small knolls, with much loose stone, but few plain sites. The platform on the prominent knoll in front of the shanties is a house platform, no heiau. A number of walls run across the flat.
- Site 34. Lowest flat. At the two houses is a papamu built into the wall, 17 rows one way, 14 aboveground the other. Another

# Ki ilae

Bay, water course, and land section south of Honaunau. Lit. cape image. Pukui, Place Names. pg. 10

Features: Boundry on the North with Keokea at Killae Bay, boundry on the South with Kauleoli.

Mauka-makai trail- Killae-Keanapaakai Trail

- Ladd 1969, Asian and Pacific Archaeological Series No. 3, (191)
  Apple 1965, Trails (42; "Ki'ilae, a part of the City of Refuge National Park, was once a village. It is now deserted"52; )

Land award to Hueu, G.D. (Davis) (K) - Brother of Kale and Peke and son of Isaac Davis, -Companion of King Kamehameha I-L.C.A.8521-B, Kiilae, Kona.

Jackson, Frances Kilae Village, S. Kond, Oal. of Haware 1966 Fran Mar. Parke Dervice found HMCS x UHH also Report on Rilae Village the UH/HL

### Kauleoli 1&2

Ahupuala

Land Commission Award: To Naihe & Nika 10405 (no award) & 9457, 4.77 ac..

Land sections near Honaunau. Lit. the penis of Li (he traded his penis for someone elses) Pukui, Place Names.

Features: North boundry with Kiilae, South boudry with Kealia.

Aali Rock in the ocean is noted in the 1924 Honaunau qd. map.

Details of how the land got this name according to Kalokuokamalie- Maui cut off Li's ma'i and took it for himself, he gave Li his ma'i because it looked like a dog's.

C.Hooper, 7 ac.of 1-3 yr.old coffee plants, 30 ac. producing coffee trees, Thrum 1896. 1897

Thrum 1897- Kauleoli (Kouleali) Coffee Plantation, 1,000 trees 1-3 yr.old, and 10,000 trees bearing.

C.W. Achi,10 ac. 1-3 yr. old trees, 5 ac. bearing

Thrum 1898- W.C. Achi, 2,000 trs.newly planted, 15,000 trs. 1-3 yr. old,

5,000 trs. bearing.

C. Hooper, 2 ad. norlI-Blyntetrees, 12 ac. trees bearing.

HNG's Journal 12/30/1884- Mr. (. Hooper's house at Kauleoli.

Grant 1575 to J. Atkins, 364 ac., Bk. 8, 1855 Grant 3051 to Palawlelo 79.2 ac., bk.14, 1867

EXHIBIT G

& one Komon can bee, & there is on en ent sent son school. The later is taught in English but the the terebers are Hacvarias

Emerson Field Notes 1883, Reg. No. 152, p.140 Mentions the store of Hui opiopio at Hookena village.

musick, Our new Passessing p. 216-17 "an hour before owned we descended the great red held, went down the red street, & inquired for Mr. T. R. amalu, The nature school teacher. His pretty little cattage was spainted out to us & we went to it, as their cattage was the andy ouitable place in the rulege for transcests disp. mv. anele is principal of the public schools of Haskers, and also pratmester. His wife is an are teacher . When The steamer It & Hall come into part, I went down to the dock to learn the latest news for . How .... The dock was crowded with men, many of them white coppee planter

## Kalahiki

Ahupua 'a

Land section and beach, Honannau qd., Lit. the sunrise. Pukui, Place Names Ellis 1927, Tour Through Hawaii, pg. 163,172-73

The following Land Commission Awards: Alapae-9646-E,3225 ac.; Anae-9746-C, 3.70 ac.; Apela-9893,.95 ac.; Elehiwa-9717,1.87 ac.; Hoopuhalau-97E5,,17 ac Kahoukua-9575,.40 ac.; Kaholoikapu- 9571-F,3.63 ac.; Kaino-8450,2.30 ac.; Kaluailama-7185,2.20 ac.; Kamailohi-7185, 2.70 ac.; Kanakaole-7028, 3.30 ac Kaniniu-9572,3 ac.; Kaoliokalani-9748,1.75ac.; Kapaka-9571-E,2.61 ac.; Kapipaka-7027, 2.85 ac.; Kawaha-7303, 1.33 ac.; Kinimaka-M.A.59,2,660 ac.; Kuoho-11177,2.48 ac.; Mikahaka-11049, .28 ac.; Namaka-9574, 2.08 ac.; Oopa-9746-D,1.94 ac.; Pakui-9746, 2.80 ac.; Pahua-11050,2.22 ac.; Puhipau-9877-B, 1.17 ac.; Waipu- 7802-B, 0.62 ac. Ili of Kapuai, Government Land · purrendered ley Hac Chiefs under Kamehameha- Alapa'i-malo-iki and Ka-uhi-wawae-one were murdering chiefs, they killed people at various places and used the bodies for shark bait. Kalahiki and Kealia in South Kona were two of these places. Kamakau 1961, Ruling Chiefs, pg. 232

Features: North boundry with Kauhako at Lainamaui Pt. Kanikaukii Pt.

Laso alaihi . 386.32.) Kalahiki Beach

South boundry with Walea

maku ruki - former konskiki ax Kalakiki . Bd. lemm. Lestimonies

Check - LCAW. 7130:3-

According to Kalokuokamaile- The reason for the bestowal of the name of this land; for the men's work on the chiefs's day (la koele). When the tenants gathered at the place of work, they did not work right away. When the sun came up, then they worked. So it was every day; it was their watch. For this was the bestowal of the name of this land. Ka-la-hiki: The sun's arrival.

McStoker &Co.,20 cleared ac.,50 ac.newly planted,70,000 trees 1-3 yr.old, 8,000 trees producing. Thrum 1896.

Thrum 1399- South Kona Coffee Co.- 60 ac.of 1-3 yr. old trs.,30,000 trs. bearing.

Under Heiau see- Hekilinui and Kahauwawaka

Kalahiki - Waiea Flat - described in general...2 paved paths run mauka, other well-defined paths. Palianihi, was certainly used for burials. ... "The few natives whom I asked had not heard of any heiau in Kalahiki or Waiea, though on my list copied from Stoke -Kahauwawaka, Palianihi, Kekilinui & Koa. One was given as by the old government road in Kalahiki, Pokaa."

Reinecke 1929-1930, Survey of Hawaiian Sites, Part 7, Honaunau to Kau, pg. 4

Lyman traveling by canoe 1846: "...we passed Kalahiki, a long strangling village with a beautiful sand beach and extensive coconut groves." Lyman, fround the Horn..., pg. 120

Kalacheana's Id. Inventory 1866 pary Kaladeki - belonged to Kanin -Kanin rec. Le Aw in Waished -Kapuai an ili of Kalaheki- Hov. ld. disposed to

Ahupuala

Waiea

Land Commission Awards:

Hoopuhalu, 9716, 1.40 ac.; Kaupu, 8449, 4.60 ac.; Mikahaka, 11049, 4 Palea, 10745, 4.50 ac.;

According to Kalokuokamaile; this land was named for a chief.

Features: North boundry with Kalahiki, South boundry with Honokua. Puiwa Pt.; Lapawai Bay; Papakolea Pt.; Kapilo Bay.

Kalaniopuu, hearing of the death of Alapai, went to Waiea, S, Kona. Frag. of Haw'n History, pg.4

Kaeo & Kekoa, 5 ac.of 1-3 yr.old coffee trees, 8 ac.producing. Thru

Under Heiau see 4 Koa

At Kapilo Bay there were a few sites and graves.

Reinecke 1929-1930, Survey of Hawaiian Sites, Part 7, Honaunau to Kau, pg. 5

See Cattlemans Journal by Ikaika - on file

Grant 1586 - Cummings, Waiea, 1371 acs.; Bk.8; 1855 - Sold by estate of Cummings to Palea, etal. 1/4/1866; Bk. 22:363

ones

And that I am the owner of said land as willed to me by my father.

Said land is bounded as follows, viz.

On the South side by the Government land of Waiea, owned in part by the Estate of late P. Cummings of Kona, on the north by the land, Hookena, owned by Her Excellency R. Keelikolani, on the mauka side by the land Keauhou, on the West by the sea

Also in North Kona the Ahupuaa Pahoehoe, which is bounded on one side by the land Kaumalumalu, owned by Her Excellency R. Keelikolani and on the other side by the land pahoehoe & owned by Her Majesty, Queen Emma, and West by the sea.

Also the Ahupuaa Maihe, which is bounded on one side by the land Huamoo and the other side by the land Maihe 2d and by the sea.

The undersigned would respectfully request your honor that the Boundaries of said lands be settled at your earliest convenience.

(signed) Kaniu W. Lumaheihei

Filed July 30, 1873

Kalahiki Ahupuaa, District of South Kona, Island of Hawaii, Boundary Commission, Hawaii, Volume A, No. 1, pp. 290-291

The Ahupuaa of Kalahiki, District of South Kona, Island of Hawaii, 3rd Judicial Circuit

On this Sixth day of August A.D. 1873 the Commissioner of Boundaries for the 3rd Judicial circuit met at the house of Moses Barrett, Keopuka, South Kona for the hearing of the application of W.K. Lumaheihei, for the settlement of the boundaries of Kalahiki, South Kona, Hawaii.

Notice of the hearing of applications for the settlement of boundaries of lands in North and South Kona, having been published in the Hawaiian Gazette and Kuokoa, to be held August 2nd A.D. 1873 and due notice personally served on owners and agents of adjoining ands as far as known.

Present: Mr. W. Lumaheihei for applicant and J.G. Hoapili for Hawaiian Government, Her Excellency, R. Keelikolani and others; Palea for self, Royal Patent No. 1586, filed for boundaries of a portion of Waiea.

For Petition see Folio 222

Testimony

Palea, kane, sworn, I was born at Kalahiki, south Kona, Hawaii at the time of Kuiwai o ka Lae. Have always lived either on Kalahiki or Waiea. Am a kamaaina of the former land, and know part of the boundaries. Kalahiki is bounded on the North side by Kauhako, the boundary at seashore between Kalahiki and Kauhako is at a sharp ridge or point of rocks in the sea, Lae o Maui (Clark's land) is on top of the pali; thence along his land to above the mauka Government road; the line runs along Clark's wall to the makai side of the Government road, the mauka corner of his land is at Puuhau where cocoanut trees and Lauhala are growing; I do not know the boundaries above this point. Nahua, Mahu, Ni\uhi (how dead) the former konohiki of Kalahiki, told me the boundary between that land and Kauhako was an iwi aina, and those men were kamaaina of the land (Kaheana bought a piece of Kauhako [page 291] which extends into the woods, I think Poli now has the deed). The boundary runs into and through the woods to the mountain in an awaawa.

I have heard the awaawa is on Kalahiki and that Kauhako runs on the top of the North bank of said awaawa; to the koa woods where Hookena cuts it off and bounds the land of Kalahiki, into the mamani, and on the mauka side of the mamani Hookena is cut off by Keauhou.

Pohokinikini is the name of two water holes on Waiea, where Cummings land ends and my lands bound Kalahiki from there to the seashore. The sea bounds it on the makai side and the land has Ancient fishing rights extending out to sea.

From the mauka corner of my land of Waiea, the boundary between Kalahiki and Waiea runs from Pohokinikini to Kauhalemanu where bird catchers used to live (I was formerly a bird catcher); thence the boundary runs to Kumumamaki, a water hole; thence to Kalahikiola, a hill covered with trees at the lower edge of the Koa woods; thence to Kaloi, a water hole; thence to Napalikui; the road runs up the boundary between these two lands; thence to Nanou, an oioina in the koa; thence to Kaulakukui (punawai) a round water hole; thence to a koa tree called Kailiulaula; thence to above the upper edge of the



