Section 8  Summary and Interpretation

At the request of Wilson Okamoto Corporation, CSH has conducted this AIS for the proposed KCC Rezone Campus project of a future campus expansion project that includes construction of new buildings, additions to buildings, and new parking lots within its existing 198.8-acre campus in Ha‘ikū, Niumalu, and Nawiliwili Ahupua‘a, Lihu‘e District, Kaua‘i, TMKs: [4] 3-4-007:001, 002, 003, and 006. The project area is owned by the State of Hawai‘i and is located on the north side of Kaumuali‘i Highway and Puhi Town.

Background research was conducted as a component of the AIS. No information regarding traditional Hawaiian habitation or activities within the project area was found; however, there are several traditional accounts that have been documented within Niumalu Ahupua‘a. Early historic accounts suggest the area consisted of “beautiful undulating table land, dotted with groves of lauhala and kukui” (Alexander 1991:122). No major settlements were documented on these tablelands.

Historical background for the project area suggests that during the Māhele, Victoria Kamāmalu was awarded LCA 7713, which included the ahupua‘a of Niumalu. In the late 1800s to early 1900s, plantation-style agriculture began to flourish on Ka‘a‘i. Grove Farm was established in the area by Warren Goodale in 1850. Grove farm went through a series of owners and was purchased by George Norton Wilcox. Wilcox expanded Grove Farm and its associated infrastructure. Puhi Camp was constructed in the project area and was extant until the 1980s. In the mid-1960s, a portion of Grove Farm was gifted for the Kaua‘i Community College. Grove Farm ceased operations in 1974, however, some of its lands, including portions of the project area, were continued to be planted in sugar cane for most of the twentieth century.

Several archaeological studies (Palama 1973; Kikuchi and Remoaldo 1992; Hammatt and Shideler 2004; Groza and Hammatt 2010, 2013; Hunkin et al. 2014) have been conducted within or adjacent to the project area. Several potential historic properties were documented in the studies, including an irrigation ditch system a portion of which was designated SIHP # -2179, a survey marker designated SIHP # -2220, and a cemetery designated SIHP # -B006.

A CIA was conducted for the proposed project (Fa’anunu et al. 2012). A summary of the consultation was included in the report. Additional consultation with a former resident of Puhi Camp was also conducted as a part of AIS fieldwork.

AIS fieldwork consisted of a 100% pedestrian inspection, subsurface testing and GPS data collection within the current project area. Fieldwork was accomplished between 6 April 2015 through 10 April 2015 and 22 April 2015 by CSH archaeologists Richard Stark, Ph.D., Gerald Ida, B.A., Tyler Turran, B.A., and Missy Kamai, B.A. and between 4 January 2016 and 8 January 2016 by CSH archaeologists Scott Bellumini, B.A., Thomas Martel, B.A., and Trevor Yucha, B.S., under the general supervision of Hallett H. Hammatt, Ph.D. This work required approximately 30 person-days to complete. Four historic properties were documented during AIS fieldwork.

The pedestrian inspection identified four primary areas of the project area. The developed and landscaped portion of the KCC campus encompasses the southeast portion of the project area. Former cane fields, now a fallow Albizia forest, comprises the northeast portion of the project area. The Puhi Stream Gulch encompasses the western portion of the property area and the former
Puhi Camp area, now utilized for two schools, encompasses the portion of the project area between the developed portion of the KCC Campus and the gulch. Vegetation throughout the area consisted primarily of exotic grasses, and Moluccan Albizia (*Falcataria moluccana*). Kī (*Cordyline fruticose*), feral coffee trees (*Coffea* sp.), banyan (*Ficus* sp.), African tulip (*Spathodea Campanulata*) and miconia (*Miconia* sp.) were also observed.

A total of 17 test excavation were conducted. In general, the stratigraphy observed in T-1 through T-17 remained consistent, consisting of two strata with the exception of T-8 and T-15 which includes three strata. The stratigraphy generally consisted of a disturbed stratum, likely a former plow zone, overlying a natural alluvium with decomposing bedrock. The natural deposits were generally consistent with the documented soils presented in Foote et al. (1972).

The four historic properties identified within or encompassed by the project area consist of SIHP # -B006, the Puhi Camp Cemetery previously identified by Kikuchi and Remoaldo (1992), SIHP # -2179, an irrigation complex previously identified by Hunkin et al. (2014), SIHP # -2220, Hawaii Territory Survey Marker and Transit Station previously identified by Hunkin et al. (2014), and SIHP # -2307, a newly identified subsurface trash deposit.