

**Pulelehua Cultural Impact Assessment Update
TMK: 2-4-3-01:31 (por)
Māhinahina Ahupua‘a
Maui, Hawai‘i**



Prepared for Maui Oceanview LC

By

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June 5, 2017

Cover Photo: Partial view of Pulelehua project area from West Maui Airport

This Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) Update is in response to a request from *Maui Oceanview LC* for Pulelehua [TMK: (2)4-3-01:31 (por)], Māhinahina Ahupua‘a, *moku* of Kā‘anapali, Maui Island. This CIA Update included revisions of the 2005 Ethnographic Survey (Appendix A) and a review of previous CIA (Orr 2005) (Appendix B), re-contacting (2004) interviewees, ground-truthing (taking current photographs), and writing a letter report. The purpose of this CIA update is to review the current status of the project lands and determine if there are any changes to the assessment made in the January 26, 2005 CIA. The project area consists of developed lands (former pineapple agriculture) adjacent to the current Kapalua West Maui Airport (Figure 1).

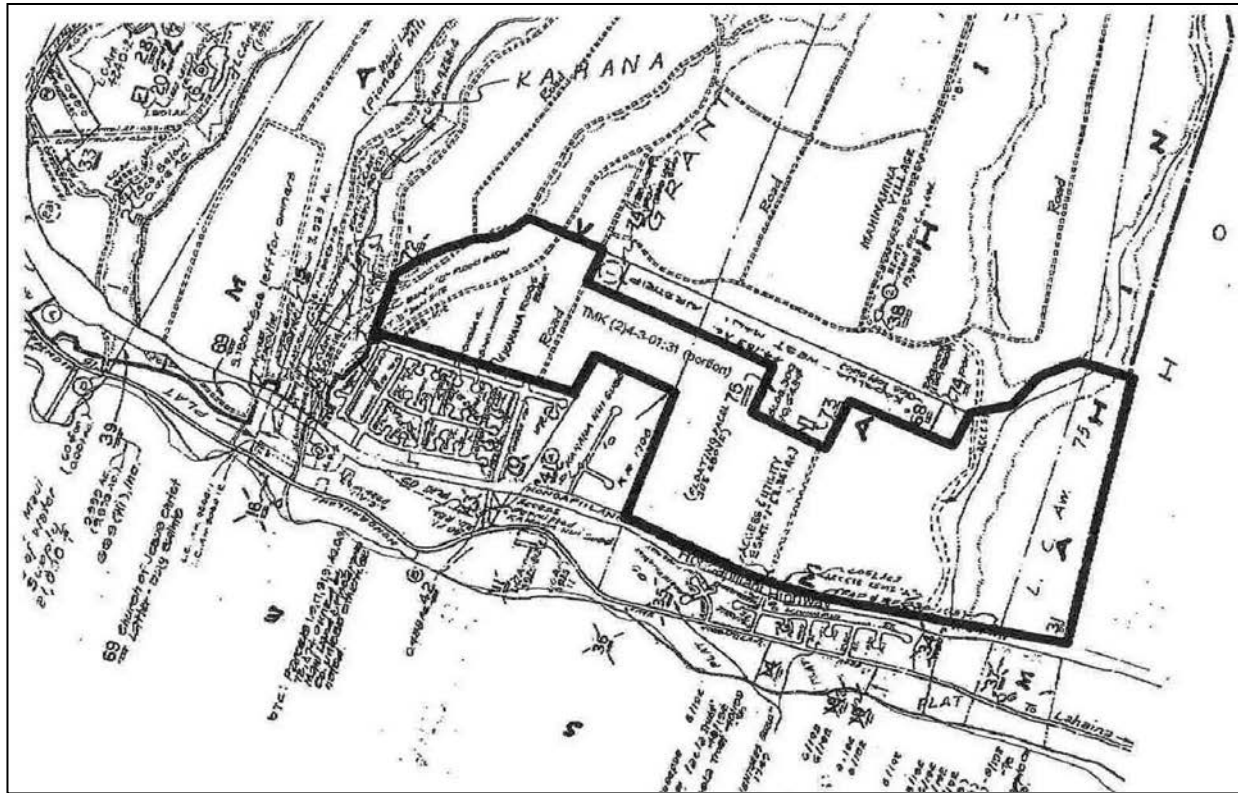


Figure 1. Detailed TMK Map of Project Lands (PBR-Hawaii 2004)

Updated Ethnographic Survey (2017)

Three of the primary interviewees were called; two answered (Mr. Nohara and Pohaku). All three were sent copies of the Ethnographic Survey section of the 2005 CIA report at the request of Mr. Nohara and Pohaku to refresh their memories. Mr. Nohara returned his revised copy with additional comments; they were incorporated into the revised Ethnographic section (attached).

Update Issues

It is with deep sadness that I report the tragic death of Mr. Sadang’s son this month; therefore I did not wish to pursue contact with him. Pohaku has been undergoing medical treatment and

was going to call me to meet up; however that did not work out. With respect I did not pursue further contact as well.

Current Land Status

The following are photos taken on May 26, 2017 illustrating that the project lands are not in Ag production and shrubs and grasses have taken over. Photos were taken from various points off of Akahahele Rd and sections of the airport. Actual access to the project lands was not available; both gates were locked.



Photo 2. North gate off Akahahele Road



Photo 3. South gate off Akahahele Road.



Photo 4. Akahahele Road facing west; project lands both sides.



Photo 5. Facing NW



Photo 6. North end of airport



Photo 7. Facing West of Airport



Photo 8. Facing NW



Photo 9. Facing West



Photo 10. Facing South

2017 Akahele Gate Access

About a month ago I met with the Gorilla Foundation. They have a long term lease with MLP. They had plans to build a research facility to house Gorillas directly mauka of Pulelehua at about the 1400 ft elevation. They also have an easement to access through Pulelehua via the Akahele Gate. Other people who use the Akahele Gate for access are Kā'anapali Land Management Co., Board of Water Supply, Maui Electric, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), Maui Land & Pine (MLP) and Kaonoulu Ranch (Nohara 2017).

NOTE: Based on my 2004 access I believe Mr. Nohara is referring to the North-facing gate off of Akahele Road; there is a Taxi “stand” there (See Photo 2). The following is from the 2005 CIA report:

The road that goes to the airport is called Akahele. It was really Māhinahina Cane Haul Road that went straight up to the houses, or Māhinahina Camp. When the airport was constructed, it blocked the road. So to get up to the houses you had to go around the south end of Field 8. And then it loops back and ties into Māhinahina Rd and goes straight up. Māhinahina Road used to go through from the sugar cane field straight up [Nohara 2005].

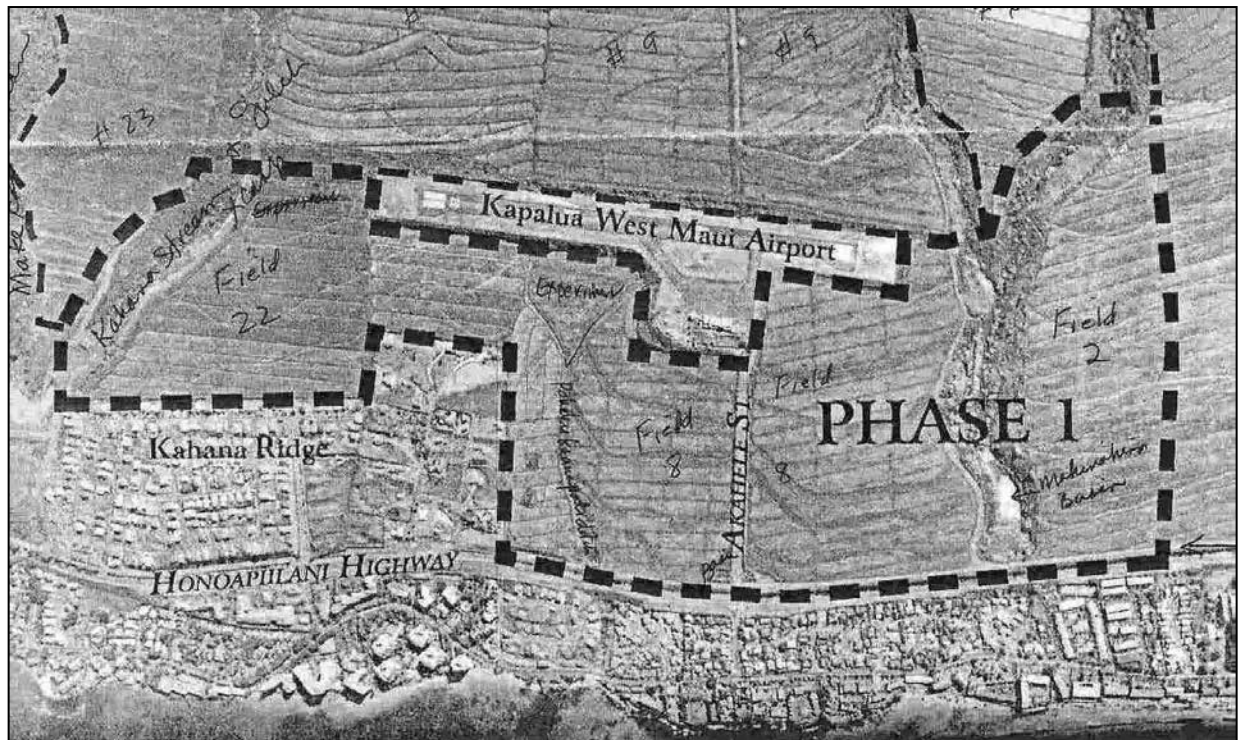


Figure 2. Former pineapple fields now the proposed Pulelehua (MLP 2004)

Pulelehua Project Area. “Well, today it’s Field 8, Field 2 and Field 22 of Maui Pineapple Company” [Nohara 2005].

Māhinahina Land Use Recap

During the reign of Kamehameha III (AD 1825-1854), most of the lands of the Kā'anapali District, including Māhinahina became Crown Lands, the personal property of the King, during the re-distribution of lands in the Great Mahele (AD 1848). During the Mahele period (ca. AD 1846-1856) when lesser chiefs and *konohiki* were claiming or being assigned lands, the register and testimony to the Land Commission provided information as to the people of the project area, as well the resources and use. Much of West Maui was given to L. Konia, granddaughter of Kamehameha I, wife of Abner Paki, mother of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, and *hanai* mother of Kamaka'eha (Queen Liliuokalani). However, Māhinahina 4 was awarded to Charles Cocket (LCA 75) by Maui Governor Hoapili (Hoapili was the companion of Kamehameha I and following Kamehameha's death Hoapili became the husband of Keopuolani) even though Paki claimed they were his lands. Other lands within Cocket's lands were awarded to: Hoonoho (LCA 6539); Kaukau (LCA 4239); and Kekalohe (LCA 4248). Māhinahina 1, 2 & 3 (Grant 1166) was awarded to missionaries Dr. Dwight Baldwin, John Fawcett Pogue, and Sereno Edwards Bishop (son of Artemas and Elizabeth Edwards Bishop); all three had been missionaries in Lahaina and involved with Lahainaluna School [Orr 2005:104].

According to previous archaeological surveys, almost all traces of the ancient period in Māhinahina-Kahana have been destroyed with the exception of a few stone remnants in the Kahana Gulches and a cultural deposit in the Māhinahina Gulch. Carbon dating analysis of charcoal specimen from Site #255 in Māhinahina Gulch indicates an occupation date of AD 1150, with a pre-contact occupational time span of AD 1150 to 1778 [Orr 2005:106].

According the testimonies, much of the *kula* lands were converted to pasture (ca. AD 1850-1915); this was followed by mono-crop agricultural practices--the cultivation of sugar cane (ca. AD 1915-1986) and pineapple (ca. AD 1986-2004), which also radically modified the natural landscape with infrastructural roads, railways, bridges, ditches, tunnels, plowing and rock crushing. This was the land history of Māhinahina as well. The Māhinahina house lots mentioned in the testimonies were either destroyed before or during the sugar plantation era [Orr 2005:106].

The Pulelehua lands were at one time leased by Pioneer Mill Company and cultivated with sugar cane. In the late 1980s the lands were part of a land exchange and subsequently cultivated with pineapple. The project lands now border the Kapalua West Maui Airport (*mauka*) and the Cane Haul Road (parallel to the Hono-a-Pi'ilani Highway) and straddle Akahahele Road that leads to the airport. The northern boundary is the Kahana drainage (Kahana Iki Gulch). Both parts of the property, on either side of Akahahele Road are currently fallow pineapple fields. A portion of the project area is located south of the Māhinahina Gulch drainage...[Orr 2005:107].

Summary of Consultants Concerns/Considerations (2005:108-109).

Two consultants have some reservations regarding the proposed Pulelehua Community and all the consultants shared the concerns and thoughts that they would like to see be considered. These concerns are "categorized" according to "cultural properties or practices" or "general" and if they directly or indirectly will be affected by the proposed project.

Cultural Properties/Practices Directly Affected by the Proposed Project:

- ❖ Fishing and other marine resources are threatened and/or depleted
- ❖ Inadequate de-silting basin system; size and removal of silt
- ❖ Runoff created by development may be killing marine resources
- ❖ Uncontrolled pesticides/fertilizers in private yards (bad for aquifer and ocean)

General Concerns Regarding the Proposed Project:

- ❖ Traffic problems already an issue, more people, more traffic
- ❖ Overpopulation of West Maui--more people, more problems
- ❖ History of County planning very poor
- ❖ Development will take away needed open spaces
- ❖ New development raises the property values--unaffordable
- ❖ County has not provided adequate infrastructure for West Maui
- ❖ County has not provided school, public improvements for West Maui
- ❖ New, outsider teachers, etc. who don't adapt, create conflicts with students
- ❖ Recreation (i.e., surfing) areas are already overcrowded
- ❖ Outsiders don't know/care about recreation (surfing) curtsies
- ❖ Tourist industry creates ill-paying service jobs, can't afford housing

General Concerns Regarding Adjacent Airport:

- ❖ The airport noise is still an issue
- ❖ Airport runoff is a big problem--no adequate subsurface drainage
- ❖ Lengthening the airport is an issue, big jets and helicopters are not wanted

Cultural Practices. The consultants grew up in West Maui and recollect playing or gathering things from the gulches; one especially mentioned Kahana Iki more so than Māhinahina. They also spoke of pig hunting that was practiced by members of their families or friends. While there are no cultural practices on Pulelehua Community lands to be adversely impacted, there is potential that access to gathering and hunting practices in the upper gulches/mountains may be compromised during the construction phase of the proposed Pulelehua Community. However, concerns regarding access to upper gulches/mountain resources would be mitigated upon completion of the project and the subsequent dedication of the project streets as public thoroughfares.

According to consultants, the cultural fishing practices of Hawaiians in Māhinahina-Kahana area, while not located specifically on Pulelehua Community lands, have potential for being adversely affected by the proposed Pulelehua Community, due to runoff and non-removal of silt collected in the Māhinahina, Kahana and Pohakukaanapali Basins. West Maui, including Māhinahina and Kahana drainages have been known to experience periods of heavy rainfall that overflows into the ocean bringing with it silt (*lepo*) that dirties the waters and adversely impacts the marine resources. The consultants also believe there is reasonable potential for these fishing practices being adversely impacted by uncontrolled private (residential/business) use of pesticides and fertilizers, in the way of groundwater seepage, if a large number of people with yards move into the Pulelehua Community.

Cultural Resources. Other than the *kukui* trees in the gulches adjacent to the project area, there are no known cultural resources located on the Pulelehua Community project lands.

CULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

There are no changes to the 2005 Cultural Impact Assessment below. However, there is an additional consideration mentioned by Ethnographic Consultant Nohara regarding the Akahele Gate access (See 2017 Akahele Gate Access pg. 4).

- ❖ **Cultural Resources (Land) Impact.** The lands within the project area were heavily impacted by the historic activities of the 19th and 20th centuries. Any cultural sites and/or resources would have been destroyed or buried by ranching, sugar and pineapple plantation activities; therefore there will be no adverse impact to any cultural resources on Pulelehua lands (except for the gulches). However, it should be noted that cultural sites (i.e., hearths/*imu*) have been found below the plow zone in other areas (islands) of sugar cultivation.
- ❖ **Cultural Practices/Access (Land) Impact.** Since there are no cultural resources on Pulelehua lands, there will be no adverse effects to cultural practices on Pulelehua lands. However, there are cultural resources in the gulches and access to these areas may be adversely impacted or compromised by the Pulelehua Community.
- ❖ **Cultural Practices: Indirect Adverse Impact.** According to consultants interviewed, there are two conditions that have the potential to create an adverse effect or impact on the cultural fishing practices and resources *makai* of the proposed Pulelehua Community; over-flow runoff and contaminated groundwater seepage. Given the propensity for runoff problems in West Maui, unless they are adequately addressed, development activities for this project may adversely impact both traditional cultural marine resources and practices by the silt-laden overflow into the ocean from both the drainages and surface runoff. One suggested solution was to periodically remove dried sediment from the desilting basins before any heavy rain fall can create overflows taking the collected sediment/silt with it into the ocean. The condition of the contaminated groundwater seepage into the ocean is created by the continuous use of pesticides and fertilizers leaching into the aquifer or groundwater. While this may be mitigated by a change from agricultural use to urban use, unless private (residents/business) and public (open spaces/parks) activity is monitored, this problem could persist.
- ❖ **General Concerns.** While many of the general concerns of the consultants [mentioned above] do not involve traditional cultural resources or practices, they are valid points that also warrant some consideration.