

Interview 1 with Anthony Wai'au

by Charles Langlas 4/1/88

[interview was not recorded but notes were taken]

1. biographical data [sequence needs to be confirmed]
  - b. 1911 (Jan. 17) at Kaimu
  - c. 1923 went to junior high school in Hilo for short time
  - c. 1926, at 15, went to Maui, worked one year at CPC (Central[?] Pineapple Cannery) in Kahului, where his sister's husband was a foreman (worked along with his nephew, got 15 cents/hr, lived in camp there with sister) (returned to Kaimu)

C.1927 on at 16. helped Fr. Evarist build the SOTS church in Kalapana (drove truck) and paint it

- c. 1929, at 18, left Kaimu; got job with fire department for seven years

later worked as tour-driver (part-time) and did lauhala work to support family; once taken on full-time (by Grayline) he stopped doing lauhala work

1965 retired from Grayline, started driving mini-bus for county

1975 retired from county

2. Kaimu beach and park

His father was the keeper of Kaimu park (\$40/month). He helped his father clean the park. The sea would wash the sand onto the road (beach shaped with a hump with road on the inside:

) and they would shovel the sand off. Also he saw the sea taking the sand out from the beach, uprooting coconuts. His father planted new ones to replace them. Eventually the road was moved in about 200 feet, they lost part of their property thereby. When he was 20, they gave up that park and moved the park to Kalapana.

Harry Keliioomalu's house was taken by the 1960 [sic, 1946] tidal wave, but their (his parents') house was farther in; the tidal wave stopped just before their house. His mother ran out when the wave receded and picked up the fish left behind.

When he was about six, the movie Bird of Paradise (first version) was filmed at Kaimu. Grass huts were built, people were paid to roam around in lavalava's. Also two later movies filmed there, Pagopago and Bird of Paradise (second version) in 1957.

## 2. fishing

There was no taboo on the hole size of nets then, didn't need a license to fish until lately (about 30 years ago).

When the men came in with fish on canoes, all the women would be waiting on the beach, hold the canoe; the fishermen would take out the opelu and give it out by the armful (because they caught so much) saying this is for you, this is for you...

They used to catch nenu (7-8 pound fish) with a big net stretched out in the bay, about 200 feet out. His father would wake them early in the morning, having already gotten up and prepared the net. The fish run parallel to the beach, when they hit the net they mill around in a circle--like cattle--so don't get away. Then couple men come up and make noise, fish jump at net [caught in it?]. Then gave fish out to all the people.

At night, they fished for kawale'a (barracuda-like fish) with throw-line, also u'u. (That's when they come out of their caves.)

When I asked about people using dynamite later, got no response, but he mentioned use of clorox put in hole, kills fish. Earlier, used pounded weed [he forgot name] to paralyze fish in pool, such as manini, aholehole.

His father could make canoe. He helped him make one when about 10 years old from a koa log, hollowing it out with adze (no saws). Made for Yanuwai (he got the log from somewhere), who kept it at Kalapana, had people use it there. He got part of the fish because he owned the canoe, but didn't fish himself. The canoe was a little too heavy--they didn't take off enough of the wood inside.

His father also made nets, had bags of olona fiber cord (made by rolling the fiber on the leg). (Came from the bark of the olona tree.) They had to dye the nets of olona with kukui bark to make them stiff, also made them red. Need a mature kukui tree with thick bark to work well. Dipped the cord or net 2-3 times until nice and red, when it fades and gets flexible dip again. They used olona-fiber nets up till he was about 15-16, then used bought cord for nets.

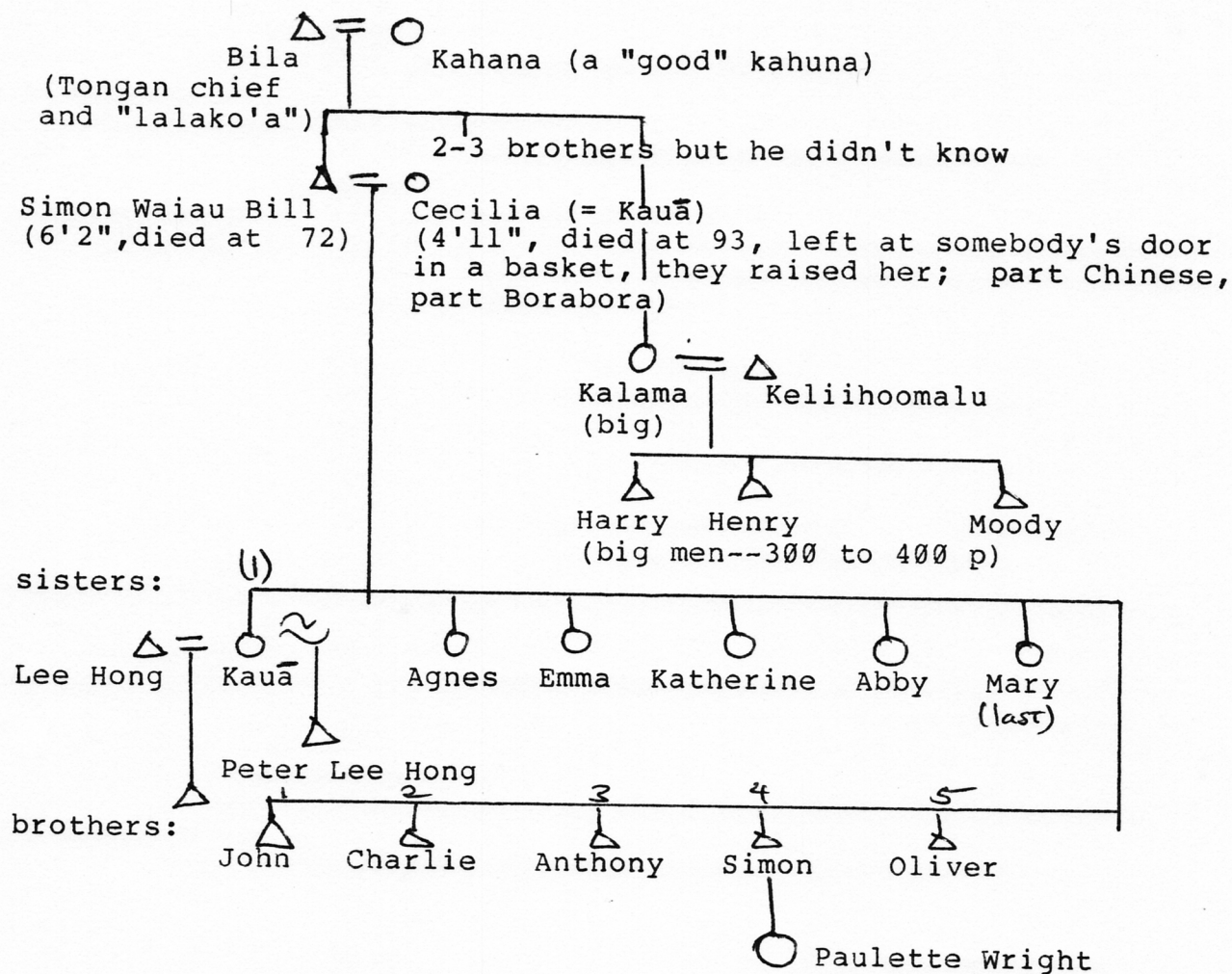
His father didn't have his own canoe, but had borrowed one (apparently for a long period). Later it was taken away.

## 3. Roman Catholic church

His family were Catholic from years back.

He helped Fr. Everist take down lumber from the old Pahoia church when it was torn down to build the SOTS church, plus got lumber from Hilo. (He drove truck.) Then helped him paint the church. He built the gym in the back for sports--"We all build, all the church members." Fr. Everist was big on sports, was a nice priest. He was there about 4 years, then moved to Maui.

#### 4. family history and genealogy



Grandfather--son of a Tongan chief, landed at Kaimu to take on cotton (a lot was grown down there then) for Kailua; he fell in love with the grandmother and married her. Later the father of his grandfather was getting weak and his brother's came to get him because he was next in line to be chief, but he said no, he would stay and another should become the chief. (He has heard that Waia is a chiefly Tongan name, so maybe they changed it to Waiau.)

Grandmother--was a good kahuna, the kind that gives life (ho'ola), not the kind that takes life (kalaepaho). She was Catholic, used to go into trance and "mediate"; a "guardian" would come and sit in her, speak through her. Later she wouldn't know what she had said. (He thought the guardian was kahapu'u.) Although he didn't see his grandmother, he did see his father's

relative, a woman from Pahoā, who did the same--prayed and smoked and the guardian kahapu`u came into her. She could tell about you when you came into the room and would sometimes say she didn't like you, get out.

Lee Hong--married his oldest sister. Peter Lee Hong not from Lee Hong, but from another before they married, then Lee Hong raised him. They lived in house next to his parents' house. Early Lee Hong worked in town for Con Si Wo (perhaps as delivery boy), lived in house at Waiākea. Later, came back and raised pigs for sale at Kaimu, raised lemons (had 1 acre), coconut, papaya. Had truck for delivery. "We used to pick for him."

He was in 5th grade and Helen Lee Hong in 6th; then he skipped a grade so they went to Junior High school in Hilo together. He lived with brother-in-law Lee Hong in Hilo, but then had trouble with him, so left and went back to Kaimu.

Sisters--all married when he was growing up except Mary.

Brothers--John never married, died in merchant marine.

Charlie married and divorced, married and divorced.

Simon's wife died and left him with 5 kids.

→ Gabriel Kealoha--the mother Kauānoe was some kind of relation but he doesn't know how. Gabriel was good at climbing coconut tree, without a strap or anything.

His father owned 10 acres. Those days the Hawaiians didn't divide up the property among the children, but gave it all to the first-born. So his father gave all to the oldest sister (Lee Hong). Then the children said better he keep an acre for himself, so he did that, and then gave that acre to Simon, even though, "I'm the one doing all the work." After parents' death, he asked Simon to give enough for a house, but he got greedy and wouldn't give any.

5. the evil kahuna (kalaepaho)--has a pu`olo [package] with an evil idol inside; can send and kill people. (That's seen as a bright light, the akualele.)

"I could tell lots of stories about that. Many people died of that." When he was young, was told to be careful of the old people, because they have pu`olo`s and can kill you by sending, so we respect them. CL: Did they all have? AW: Well, maybe not all, but we don't know which ones have. He doesn't hear about that anymore, doesn't think anyone does that anymore.

He saw akualele only once, on Maui--evening, about 6:00, it dropped down right in back of his sister Abby's house; right after that she died. That time there were eyes all around too (like the time recounted below.)

His father's sister Kalama was killed that way. At Harry Kelilihoomalu's house there were eyes, you could see eyes looking out at night from the house when nobody was home, saw eyes all around. The wife was a kahuna, killed her husband's mother Kalama who stayed with them. Kalama walked out to go to the

restroom and fell down dead.

If you don't keep the pu'olo right, it will turn against you and make you sick. That happened with Harry Keliioomalu's wife. She went into convulsions, ate her own shit, drank her own piss. She didn't recover until her daughter brought her to Hilo and prayed many times. After that she was good.