

Interviews with Dwight Hamilton

Background note: Dwight Hamilton formerly worked as a ranger at HVNP. At that time he interviewed Oulu Konanui (records available in the HVNP library) and he went on backcountry trips with John Hauanio and William Peleiholani. All three were Kalapana Hawaiians of the older generation knowledgeable about the park. After he retired, he continued his friendship with Kalapana Hawaiians. He interviewed John Hauanio in 1994 shortly before his death (interview transcript held by park).

1/12/98 (unrecorded interview)

I showed Dwight the notes held by HVNP library, based on his taped interview with Oulu Konanui. (He said he'd never seen them, would like a copy of the tape transcript if we produce one.) I asked him about the locations mentioned in the notes:

Oloua cave--he said it was in Pūlama, on the mauka side of the highway right across from the second parking area east of Kamoamoā (approximate location marked on USGS quad about 1000' east of the Kamoamoā/Pūlama boundary)

Kalihi--area in mauka Kamoamoā; he went there w. Oulu Konanui, took Emory there; got there from Royal Gardens, the farther road west; it has a stepping stone trail across `a`ā flow (pictured in Ladefoged et al) and he thinks may be the same as the village area described in Ladefoged et al as Kamoamoā mauka

Lelekawa--a sea arch, created by lava tube that ran inland, right in front of the old windmill at Kamoamoā; he has a picture where Bully Peleiholani & others used to dive in there

Lehua point--right in front of Moa heiau; had a cobblestone beach and white sand below the water, bait cups on shore; they caught moi there, he thinks w. pole and line, but never witnessed

Kaheka--he forgets the name

Na`ulu--Dwight didn't see any house foundations there, only two `ulu trees and cistern; on mauka side of road and below the pali, in area marked Naulu forest on USGS map (in Kealakomo)

across the road (to south) is cistern built by Jack Kaulunahele and two house platforms, stepping stone trail which leads to drip cave

farther south, about where the road crosses the Kealakomo/Pānau boundary, are more house platforms

2/29/98 interview recorded (some portions unrecorded)

We talked about the rough draft of Year 1 report I'd given him--mistakes he noticed.

Dwight thinks that Keaoi island (outside Halapē) is not completely submerged. Asked, he thought John Hauanio said Keaoi w/o glottal stops. Said in earlier times you could swim out to it at low tide, stand on coral heads in the channel between coast and island to rest.

Questions asked:

1. Q: When did you first come to work at HVNP?

Came 1961 to HVNP, from Dinosaur National Monument. At that time several Kalapana Hawaiians working at the park--George Kaapana working at automotive shop, later at Waha`ula, Bill Peleiholani in maintenance, John Hauanio as ranger. Willie Elderts had just retired.

Left August 1965 to work on mainland, there until 1980. Then retired back here and lived in Hilo.

In 1965 when he left, the Waha`ula Visitor Center not built yet. June 1965 the road dedicated, but Visitor Center built afterward.

2. Q: Were they doing goat drives when you first worked at the Park?

--Drives had been discontinued after the war because had just about eliminated the goats.

--Were started again after Dwight came, prob. 1962, because goats multiplying again. Organized then by John Hauanio. The park organizaed, and Ainahou Ranch cowboys helped. Did 2-3 day drives, both on foot and on horseback about every two years. The drove goats east along the flat below Hilina Pali over to a corral just west of the fence w. Ainahou Ranch. Then let through a gate into Ainahou Ranch. The goats would travel mauka along the fence trying to get back west into Kap_pala home. Then herded into another corral up at Hilina Pali Road, and from there trucked out.

First year the goats were sold to the highest bidder--but no upset price established and the bidders had colluded to all bid low. Next year park established an upset price so they got more.

They would catch a couple thousand goats in a drive, but lost that many trying to push them into the first corral. At first goats would be scared of any noise, but by the time they got them all the way to the corral, the first goats in would be running out right past the horses as they herded the last goats in.

Later in the 60s they used helicopters. Finally Don Reeser (then working for Resource Mgt, now Superintendent at Haleakala National Park) had the idea to fence smaller units and clear those small units. Finally got rid of the goats that way, probably in the late 60s.

Men who worked on goat drives and still around include Junior Arthur Lorenzo (worked at Ainahou Ranch under Tommy Lindsey, prob. in his 50s), Sugi Ueyama (worked for park, helped on goat drives on foot).

For early goat drives, see report by Ray Geerdes in HVNP library. For late drives, call Reser.

3. Q: Re the Centerline Station measurements used in his report of trip w. Oulu Konanui, where do the measurements start from (for use in finding sites)?

The stations started from Makaopuhi. There was a small parking lot there at the end of Chain of Craters Road where the old Volcano-Kalapana road started down (see the 1963 USGS Quad). The station markers were still there, mauka of the road, from the construction of the road.

4. Q: What about the Kealakomo curbstome trail mentioned in report?

We start to talk about curbstome trails. Was a curbstome trail leading from where the Kalapana road ended--in his day that was at the end of Royal Gardens. There were two ahu there at the end of the road where the trail started.

(recorded portion begins here, while we look at 1963 USGS quads)

CL: So there were ahu at the end of the road.

DH: Wherever the dirt road ended out here, at it should be right there. The road went out a little further, because Royal Gardens Subdivision is where? So you drove, you could drive almost to the far side of Royal Gardens, and it might even have been clear out here (the boundary with Kamoamo). There were a couple of big ahu and then the trail went on. And eventually it must have [gone makai] tied in with this one [the coast trail through Kamoamo].

And it was very well marked, you know very well curbstomed all the way along. And as I recall filled in in low places. Out in here sometimes you get the curbstones but they haven't filled in.

CL: As you get to Pānau Iki and in there?

DH: Yeah. These other petroglyphs are right out here, so we'd park on the road, right on the boundary line [between Lae`apuki and Pānau] and walk straight up and we'd cross the trail.

CL: The boundary between?

DH: Yeah. In the old days if you were out here [west of Kapa`ahu] and you were going this way [west], everybody just referred to going to Pānau. You might be even going to Halapē, but you were going to Pānau.

CL: You think if you got as far as Pu`uloa there were still any curbstones?

DH: I don't remember it right in here. There's a definite trail in the pāhoehoe, just as there is coming out from the parking area [area along the present road]. But I don't remember how far in there.

CL: This trail that's marked on the map that heads in toward Kealakomo [from Pu`uloa], do you think it's the same trail that the park is still using today?

DH: Ya, I think it is. But there was also this shoreline trail. And you could follow it back when all the way, even in here [Pānau area]. And sometimes, along here, between the road and the ocean, you can still pick up little traces of it in the pāhoehoe.

CL: So maybe it went all the way to Lae`apuki over here?

DH: Ya, I think so. Cause several times we walked from Halapē out, and we had to walk clear out here [Poupou] to get the car. And so we would just stay on this coastal trail all the way through, Kamoamoā and the works. Later on I remember we took a boy scout troop looking for a 50 mile hike, we were doing it on horses, and we cut up here and came out at Pu`uloa. Cause there's a good trail there. [bit omitted]

Speaking of waterholes, there used to be a real good waterhole here at Kahue, a little anchialine pond. I have a slide of that, sitting around it.

CL: It's not there anymore?

DH: I doubt if it is. That probably subsided. It was a sizable pond, maybe as big as this room [a large living room].

[bit omitted about the Kealakomo curbstone trail, comes out near burial cave west of "pizza hut" where old road reached pali and ran east along top of pali. Dwight doesn't remember the trail.]

DH: It'd be really great to get one of the survey maps that had those centerline stations.

CL: Yeah, that's why I thought, because since it's covered now, that trail, we could find it.

4. Q. What about these waterholes you spoke at Poupou [in the report on p. 4], Kaulawai?

He doesn't remember Kaulawai, mentioned in the report, only the one in the crack.

DH: Of course the waterhole [in the crack], that's where later on Johnny [Hauanio] built that nature trail--from Waha`ula that runs along the coast and then back. (CL: through this crack) Yeah, those are the waterholes that I'm referring to there I think.

CL: There must have been another one [Kaulawai, near the temporary ranger stations]. Do you remember where the temporary ranger station was?

DH: I trying to visualize, below where the road came through and just inside the boundary. It must have been right in here somewhere, right real close to the boundary.

CL: Then that other crack was a little bit east of the heiau wasn't it?

DH: Yeah, you know you went past Waha`ula and out along the coast and you went quite a ways down the coast and then you cut back through pandanus and the hau trees and everything and you circled around and you came back on a stepping stone trail and came right down in the crack there and over to the Visitor's Center.

This other waterhole if it was close to that ranger stations, I don't remember it though. The first time I went into that big crack where the water was, you had to walk a mile or so from where you parked the car and just bushwhacking through. It was hard to even get into the crack, there was so much brush and Christmas Berry and all kinds of things. I don't recall if I ever found the pineapple that she [Tina Kaapana] said, although at Oulu's place there were the old pineapples, the ones with the thorns along the leaves. They were growing there.

CL: Those waterholes in that crack, did people know about those Dwight?

DH: Yeah. Oh, the Kalapana people did, cause they're the ones that told me where they were. [bit omitted] I'm sure the fishermen going out [used them], or if you're coming in from Halap_, any place you could find water. I'm sure they knew about all a those.

Cause I know Johnny pointed out, like at Kakiiwai there was a place similar to that, you had to climb down. And we lived off a that water, made everything with that, and we decided drinking coffee without salt in it wasn't any good. And then at Ku`e`e Ruins on the other end there was a place there.

CL: I wonder if that one at Kakiiwai is shown on the map.

DH: It was right about in here.

CL: On the very east side of that little shelf?

DH: Yeah, right as far as you could go. When you get there, you know it was just cliff the rest of the way down.

CL: How big was that?

DH: I don't remember specifically, but we spent three days down there. You know, they went fishing for ulua, picking `opihi for somebody's retirement party. And I went along and took pictures. I don't have a picture of the waterhole, but I have a picture of a big pot of poi we mixed with the water out of it. But as I recall, it was just, again, a crack that you go down and you could dip water out of it. And being that close it must have had connections with the ocean, so getting brackish.

CL: I wonder if that's not gone now.

Dwight shows me pictures (not transcribed):

--of trail (described pp. 5-6 in report) which he thinks the same as picture in Ladefoged, et al; runs across an `a`_ flow, w. petroglyph on rock

--Sam Konanui under his breadfruit tree (he wanted picture because the road construction was going to take the tree)

--of John Hauanio throwing net, of William Peleiholani w. ulua hook, taken on their trip to Kakiiwai

CL: So they were both fishing for the ulua? Did they have two poles?

DH: No, just handline. Fairly heavy cord. Pele was, I think he was throwing the chum [eel on cord] out, bringing it back. He did that half a dozen times, finally he just nodded at Johnny and Johnny threw the hook line. Threw it out there and wham, just like that.

--of Nā`ulu forest

--mule named after Tony Medeiros: ~We called him Antoine."

--tower near well at Kamoamoā, apparently foundation for old windmill

--Kakiiwai from Kapukapu

--Lelekawa arch, with kids diving in

DH: This is Gladys Hauanio, and this is our daughter. And this is Bully...Peleiholani diving off into the [sea]. They call this place Lelekawa, I guess that means diving. And I'd never seen that before. He and somebody else, they just wait for the water to come in so it'd get deeper. They'd dive off right in there and then climb out on the side, go back. Dive right under the arch.

CL: So looks like a place that they knew about.

DH: Oh yeah, that was a thing that they, I guess probably every kid that grew up down in that country used to dive off there.

[recorder turned off and on again: Dwight says when he came, not many people had gotten out into the backcountry, he was one of the few]

Gunnar Fagerlund got around--good botanist and noticed arch. sites
Russ Apple got around when first here

park should have negatives of his pictures

He was the one who set up the file of photos and negatives now in the vault, together w. Mitzi Shikuma.

Good way to get copy of photo--better than making negative and developing--is to copy on color copier.

5. Q: Did you ever hear the names 20 minutes or 45? DH says no.

6. Q: Wanted to show you this Medeiros map.

DH: He really got around the country. He was a neat guy. I remember the first trip I took to Halapē, he was in charge of the horses. Before Johnny took over.

Side B

CL: It's interesting, it doesn't show any water farther over at Kalu'e.

DH: Well, I don't know that there is any there, is there?

CL: Well there some at the coast shown on the old USGS maps, but maybe at the time you went down there there was none.

DH: Well I've been down there since I've been back (and there's no water there).

CL: When you went down there in the 60s Dwight--at Kaaha we saw a bay, it was shallow. Do you remember a place like that?

DH: I don't remember any low ponds or any water back in there.

CL: What about at Kakiiwai? It wasn't low, it was all cliff?

DH: Yeah, and pretty hazardous picking `opihi there.

CL: You didn't see any black sand beach in this area?

DH: No. I sure don't remember [any].

[tape becomes pretty inaudible after this, with high noise level]

CL: I wonder which of these trails are ones that the park might have created.

DH: I think when you get down on pāhoehoe like this, it's going to be all mostly old trails. People just have followed em. Now going down Hilina pali, switchbacks, obviously that was built. Now whether the park did that, or that was built before the park...people did built trails before the park service came along. Some of em. Like the one from Ainahou down. They said you could get a car down that. It's wide enough now, but it's so washed out some places.

6. He went to Ku'e'e Ruins w. Bonk, but not with John Hauanio. didn't know about goat drives on Kapapala Ranch side, except what John Hauanio told him--knows of corral at Great Crack. No drives that way while Dwight here.

7. miscellaneous:

--Jon Cran, wife of Gordon Cran, plans to write history of Kapapala Ranch, has many old documents from C. Brewer.

--two Halfway houses on Ka`u side acc. Lani Cran. One shown on 1920s USGS map was Peter Lee Halfway house, another place just inside the park boundary where eucalyptus grove. Lani Cran says the second was Halfway house for Parker Ranch cowboys driving cattle from Pu`u `Ō`ō (near Mauna Kea) down to Ka`ū.

--a third windmill site was pointed out to him on the pali, up on the Kamoamo/Lae`apuki boundary (besides the ones at Lae`puki and

at Kamoamoa)

8. re Volcano--formation of Kilauea Caldera thought to be w. phreatic explosion in 1790; Don Swanson (in Volcano Watch) asking if it was more incremental, wanting oral history information.

9. Kalihi burials, etc.

DH: Right on the flats at the base of Royal Gardens there were, I'll bet you there were a hundred burial platforms there.

Contents--Dwight Hamilton interviews

p. 1 No. 1 (unrecorded) 1/12/98

re his 1964 interview of Oulu Konanui--locations of Oloua fisherman's cave, Kalihi, Lelekawa sea arch, Lehua point at Kamoamo, etc.

No. 2 (recorded) 2/29/98

p. 2 Keaoi island

his work history at HVNP

goat drives

p. 3 centerline station locations in Oulu Konanui interview

p. 3-4 trails

p. 4-5 waterholes--Kahue, Poupou

p. 5 trip to Kakiiwai w. John Hauanio and Bill Peleiholani & Nohea
his son

pp. 5-6 discussion of photos he's taken, diving at Lelekawa

p. 7 miscellaneous