

John Hale
Interview #2
October 4, 2000

Anna Naupa (AN): Conducting interview #2 with John Hale, on October 4, 2000. Um, Based on our last interview, I'd like to know a little bit more about you. Where you were born, your parents' names . . . (0-50)

John Hale (JH): Yeah, I born April 29, 1919. Down the, you wen the big house no? Yeah, that's where I born yeah?

AN: If you could tell me about your mother, your father your brothers and sisters, their names maybe?

JH: Oh, I get, I get, what I have now is only 2 left. My brother die when they was young you know, one in the Korean War and one accident 19 year old, long time ago no?

AN: Their names please?

JH: One, one ah my, the oldest is 19, he died long time ago you know. If he no die, now 82, 85 years old, 86. He died when he was 19. Then the other brother Isaac he died in the Korean War no? 19 too! They two die, my brother, I get one more down there, down the road eh where I live no? One more, about 72 now. Then me 82, 8-, almost 82 I think.

AN: And your sisters' names?

JH: William, my brother's name. That one alive no? I get one in Honolulu. I get three older one in Honolulu. Plenty of us you know. 8 I think. Wait, the other one, 2, 3 Honolulu you know. You know, my brother D- he's about 80 I think. you know 80 year old. Then I get one sister is ah one 83, one 85, Honolulu you know.

AN: What are their names?

JH: Laura, Sandy. She's 85 she get ah, she married a white man no? Hapa-haole kine, the kids. Shit, I don't know how many kids, plenty though, Then she get one more sister again, Nancy Terry, she's about 83, but four kids no? Plenty of us! They left over here when they was in the teenage, no more jobs they went Honolulu. You know, the girls no? The boys I gotta come back take care of the land. I was there then I came back after the war. Somebody gotta take care of the place plenty, nobody here you know. Only my, my sister, their mother (pointing to Hana), passed away eh? Cos their mother the oldest in our family. They mother you know, my sister. She get 10 kids you know my sister. Hana mother you know. Hana the youngest.

AN: An, um, when all of you were children in Pohoiki what was family life like? Did you go to church a lot?

JH: Oh yeah, they go church every Sunday.

AN: Which church?

JH: Every Sunday no work you go church, Then weekdays you gotta do something you know? Plant taro or go you know, some fishing no? You don't do anything,, you don't sit down like

today. The only time you come in your house daytime when you go sleep. (laughs) Stay outside do something. Eh?

AN: And what was church like?

JH: Church? They get church like this. W-When they came that ah, the Christians just take over eh, not too long ago. The only time you rest Sunday, you go church. You know, on the Sunday you wear nice clothes eh?

AN: So what would you wear?

JH: (51-100) Wear clothes! Wear shirt like this (pointing to his shirt). Sunday you know, Sunday you can come in the house. Different culture, you gotta do something eh? They, uh, they like train you to do that so that you know you can go all over the world you don't be lazy, no? You only do nothing, you don't know nothing and then you get no culture and you don't know nothing aye? You starve to death in a place you don't know nothing!

AN: So you said the rest, the rest of the time during the week you work uh? You plant taro . . . and . . . what other food did you have?

JH: Do something (nods agreement). Taro, go fishing! I do everything! I follow the old guys. I am only the guy that's more smart than, oh most of the guys. I, I came back and then I live with the old people. The other guys stay Honolulu you know. I went Honolulu 1938, then after the war, almost 46 or what the war over eh? Bah! I came back, I figured I gonna work the land no? We have one more land over there, one acre more down the ocean, You never been there eh? One more land over there. Old land, nobody staying there.

AN: And before it was used for planting, gardening.

JH: Taro garden, yeah. Today only nice the place. Show them where the ocean they like the ocean. No human being go there now, everybody move.

AN: So, so what else did you have? You had ulu . . .

JH: Ulu, taro. Them days one of us get bout 15 houses no? They get farm lot all over the place. Some they live in the mountains, 5, 5 mile in the mountain no? They go farming like that. They get two house, one in the mountain, you know where the mountain? 5 mile away. All the family, there get 7 family. Then, when the water come, they come stay by the beach house no? they go catch fish! Then rough the water they go in the mountain house, they dry all the fish for eat no? They go up eat with the taro, the fish.

AN: Ah! And uh, um, how did they dry the fish?

JH: They just put salt and put screen. Mosquito screen no? They have like a box, covered so the flies no go inside, and dry nice.

AN: In the sun?

JH: Yeah! Good dry fish.

AN: Was there a special house for drying fish, or just outside they did it?

JH: No, like that, outdoor. Then when rain, they cover them up you know. They open there and the wind go in eh? Quick dry, you know outside.

AN: So what was your house like?

JH: When I was young some houses grass shacks. Nice house! They make out of ah leaf no? (lauhala). Yeah. Me and my grandmother, big grandfather, they the older one no? Yeah, when my parents go we live in the house, some live in the grass house before. Nice grass house, clean! Yeah, no leak. They smart! Shit!

AN: So the roof was made of lauhala?

JH: Some lauhala, some grass.

AN: And the sides, the walls?

JH: Yeah, some coconut. Three kind nice houses. When I was there nobody stay in those houses, all gone already. They start making house no? House, you, you don't have to rebuild eh? Grass shack, you gotta every time make new one, every time, too much job.

AN: And so the floor was sand or . . . ?

JH: No, no they make the wall like this. You know the wall stone eh? Then they put the small kind stone on top, like a level. Then they weave mat big like this. Hawaiian Mat, They cover on top. Then they use tapa, one more tapa for blanket. They make like one blanket you know. That's what they use for blanket. The old Hawaiians they were real advance you know, for natives. (101-150)

AN: So your house was like that?

JH: Yeah, no, we no stay, my grandfather guys. When I was young, we live all in regular houses. The kind, the houses was brand new when I young. Nice houses, if you stay inside. Then nobody stay in the house that's why all broke down eh?

AN: How many bedrooms?

JH: 4. Some, all the house, we get 4, some get 2, we get 2 houses. Where I live, used to get about 15 houses all over the place. Then all the kids go college eh? They marry haole they get babies no come back. They go, no come back you know?

AN: Did the houses have bathrooms indoors or outside?

JH: Outside. Puna plenty water eh? You make tanks you know. Ten thousand gallon tanks for the water you know. Some they dig well in the ground, plenty water in the ground. Now people know, they don't know nothing uh? Shit waste time. Hawaiians they good engineers you know. Smart, break water, make stone walls, everything they smart. Even their agriculture, the haoles they no can do what the Hawaiian do. They make water come from the mountain. They, they smart people!

AN: So the other families that lived in Pohoiki when you were there, what were their full names?

JH: Where do I live? You get about 10. When I was, before there plenty. All die out, some go away, they no come back. mainland, all over the place! Some mainland plenty. When they go there they stay over there. They go work, they go school no?

AN: What were their names?

JH: I don't know. Kumu family like that. When I stay was ah, my family move Honolulu you know. Oh plenty I get over there. Only why I came back was the land that's why. My sister, stay here, The one with all these kids. Hana mother you know, that's why I stay here, they live here, they live down the beach. We get one place down Kapoho you know? The fire eat 'em all up. Nice place there, that's a real house, our house there! The home nice place, then eruption eh? Puna nice place! Plenty destroyed by fire. The beaches all destroyed down there, Kalapana too no? All destruction!

AN: When was the fire?

JH: Not too long ago, in the 60s I think. It was just recent, in the 70s I think, or 80s. Kalapana, you know that black sand beach? All destroyed.

AN: Um, I would like to know more about your community at Pohoiki when you were a child.

JH: Pohoiki was ah, when I here, when I was a child, this place used to be one port. That's where the ship come in and go. You know the ship? Sailing ship, or what kind, boat or what? They unload the cargo. Pohoiki, they get one wharf no? Pier, you know pier? You get any kind Pohoiki get one store too I think. That's one village that. So they take the cargo, supply the plantation the stores no? From there, you forget there is no car, you come to the house eh? (151 – 200) Put on the wagon and deliver the cargo. Pahoa, Kapoho like that. That's where they get that one. No more car eh? So, they go with the wagon. But when Hilo get one port, 1929 they get car in America eh? They send the trucks eh? Then they make uh, they throw away all the piers, no need boat. They make car go home from Hilo no? Truck you know. They say that the place all gone already. And they was going to make coffee over there. They plant 13000 acre coffee when the, yeah, Pohoiki area all up. 19-, 1901 I think that year or something. That year was they was making that. The mill wen complete, the boat was running you know, so they make good money the, the haoles, they buy the coffee. Plant all ready for the harvest. Then they cannot sell the coffee. You think why? Brazil wen sell same thing mainland. Brazil more cheap. Brazil more cheap.

AN: So, what happened to the coffee?

JH: Nobody buy, they go broke. That's why Pohoiki no more nothing.

AN: And who used to work at the coffee mill?

JH: Oh! They broke long time, 19, 1900! Shit, long time ago that!

AN: The Hawaiians worked there?

JH: Hawaiian labor I think. Then they put sugar no? They import Filipinos come move coffee. Hawaiian the people, the haoles come they work coffee. Ah, the coffee broke the cane. They like one dollar one day, to hell, forget it they no work for dollar day. They gotta import labor from

Philippine Island for dollar day you know? What is dollar day? The Hawaiians would rather eat taro and ah fish, why you work 8 hours only for a dollar? Shit. So they import thousands of labor came Hawaii. That's why you hear all these kind (unintelligible) like this. All these Filipino labor no?

AN: And they all stayed in Kapoho?

JH: Yeah! Kapoho, plenty. Over here, before Kea'au alone get more than 2000 labors. Then you go Pahoa, get another 1500 labors. Kapoho get 300 (microphone fell, unintelligible). Then the sugar was broke, not so long they went broke. 198-, ee what year was that? 1970 something sugar went broke all Hawaii. Sugar went broke. You no hear the history about Hawaii? Yeah, that's what happened. And no more job now, the sugar all broke. The union they get pretty good pay or what? In that year they was making about, shit, they getting good pay you know, union wages eh? Then the plantation went broke, why? Philippine Island they pay labor quarter one hour eh? So they go South America what? So Hawaii broke, that's why we get a hard luck today.

AN: So, um, when, when the coffee mill was there people live in Pohoiki or where?

JH: Yes, they lived shore Pohoiki, and some live I don't know where, they get Hawaiians all over the place. But they get their own labor. Most I think, me I think was Chinese though. Chinese came I think. Coffee no need plenty, not like sugar where you need plenty labor!

AN: And then the coffee, when the coffee was cheaper in Brazil, what year was that? (201-250)

JH: 1900? That's a hundred year, shit long time! The mill was complete 1890. And I told my grandfather the church complete, no they like grind coffee. The same year bankrupt they cannot sell the coffee, they had plant 15000 acre I think, all over the Puna coast, That's why Pohoiki go broke.

AN: So when the coffee mill went broke in Pohoiki was there anywhere else for people to work?

JH: No, nothing! Then the plantation came, yeah. But the Hawaiian no like work for that. Pohoiki went for quarter day eh? No. Shit.

AN: Were there any uh fishing ships that the Hawaiians work for? Did the Hawaiians sell the fish or anything that they . . . ?

JH: They hardly sell, they make only for eat. And if you go in the camp the Filipino they no buy too much fish. They eat vegetable on plantation because they work for quarter, how the hell you gonna make money fish?

AN: So, you would go fishing?

JH: Well, I could fish. I make fish, I make net. What the old folks I know too!

AN: How did you make the net? What did you make the net out of?

JH: You make, bamboo stick eh? You just weave 'em like what they call crochet. You know crochet? The mind the haole make. Same thing! But the thing the bamboo you make, you cut. Easy!

AN: What kind bamboo? The bamboo must be young?

JH: No! Bamboo you, you split 'em you make your own. What, ah, you know, you can make 'em, and you put the cord in, you weave 'em in the cord. You gotta point it, you make 'em point like that, longwise like this. Yeah, put the cord, then you weave the net, you know the net?

AN: So you make it like a bamboo mat?

JH: Yeah, no! no, you, you, get a bamboo. You know one bamboo stick like that eh? Bamboo eh? You cut like this you know. You cut one piece like that, like that long, like this long. Then you put the string inside no? Fill 'em up with the string. The kind string for make net. Then you go weave 'em make a net. You know you put all the cord inside that bamboo eh? Then when empty you fill 'em up, keep on making it 'til the net complete. That's all easy stuff that!

AN: So then you'd make the net and you'd take it to the deep sea or you'd throw it from shore?

JH: Yeah, then you can fish. And all the guys stay down the beach today they don't know how to make net. I tired to look these kind dumb guys. They don't know how to make net. Born Hawaii how come?

AN: So most people when you were a child they fished with the net? Longline?

JH: Net! All us fished with net. With net, bag, dive, anything! Us good fishermen, us we swim like fish. We play with the shark, shark they like our friend. No bite! (251-300). They like Hawaiian smell right I see. You see one dog, I can go near one dog they no bite me. You kick the dog he bite you eh? Same like the shark was. You go shoot them using the spear, they know you gonna attack them they go for you first. Shark no stupid. Clever animal that. I never seen nobody get bitten from shark. Only some place else, they attack the shark that's why.

AN: So, can I ask, where did you fish?

JH: I fish right in front the house. Plenty fish! Any kind fish! Not like today where I live get more human than fish! They eat everything. And they sell all the fish. That's why no fish today.

AN: What are the names of the fish?

JH: The kind Hawaiian good fish I catch. Mullet? Moi? All the good kind fish, I no catch junk fish! Today you no get fish too much.

AN: Sometimes you went out and caught 'ahi?

JH: Oh, different people go 'ahi. I no go 'ahi. When I young we no go 'ahi we only go for the mackerel, the opelu the good one no? Opelu we call it. Mackerel the haole call that. The kind you buy dry opelu today, \$5 only 2 you know. That kind expensive.

AN: What time of day would you go fishing? Morning, night? Early morning before sunrise?

JH: Morning time. Hard work you know. Not like today, people only sit down. You stay how many hours outside with the canoe eh? We get nice kind canoe, not the junk kind canoe. Now our canoe all gone, nobody canoe nowadays, they go in boat. (AN: Outrigger canoe?) Yeah, the Hawaiian one. This Hawaiian one not like the kind canoe you see race eh? That toy! The one we

get from here to the house (gesturing about 1.5 modern racing canoes)! And over 1000 lbs, heavy! Four guys carry the canoe. Today kind people no can carry they all full of air no? They not strong, today kind people. Soft! Before they carry the canoe, today they pull it with the crane. Their body like butter! You know butter? Soft. Always sit down there like that.

AN: So in the morning you'd get up . . .

JH: Get up before the sunset you go. We come back early. My grandfather guys come back quick. Get enough, no greedy eh? Today people greedy that's why, they take everything they go sell.

AN: Do you have any funny stories to tell about fishing? Like one time you went fishing . . . ?
(301-350)

JH: I go 'opihi fishing, any kind we go out. When I talk you me, the whole guys, everyone good you know? Today you talk Hawaiian all local guys you talk taro they no know what kind taro to plant, they plant the wrong taro. You cannot eat the kind taro that one, itchy! That's what happen, they don't know how to cook taro, they don't know how to pound the taro, they gotta go to the machine no? They don't know how to cook. I am tired of these kind guys today! They don't know what to do. They go some place they starve to death. (AN: You would pound taro?) I pound but my hand no good. Depend on the hand you know. When I pound, ho your stomach all gas. My body too hot I think. Funny the hand you know. Hawaiian the hand is important, the human hand get power you know. Some hand no good you know. My hand good for something else. The old folks know I good on something, and the one with the bad hand they no go near the taro, the poi what, they pull him out of there, his hand no good. And some they plant the taro the taro come small you know. The hand is important no? Me, I plant my taro, big! My brother he plant his taro, small like that. How come like that? Funny eh? That's why you gotta learn about that.

AN: So your hand is good for fishing?

JH: Fishing and uh, and help guys that get sick. I help plenty that get sick. Any kind sick. Any kind sick I can make my hand before. Then now they stay like this, that's why I stay down there. I stay down there plenty people come see me. When I old I no go down there I stay home.

AN: So, when you said like your hand was bad for poi, so then who pounded the poi?

JH: I no pound, I cook the taro. The two sides, ulu or the other one, My sister he pound poi. Hana mother no? My job is to cook only. (AN: And how did you cook it?) Just boil 'em, just like you cook mashed potato, haole potato, no? Two hours, three hours, cover with the kind 50 gallon drum no? Fill 'em up, put water. Half water, then cover with the bag eh? So steam cook you know. Steam cook. (AN: So the kitchen was outside?) Outside stove. Fire. I put wood stove. We get one more stove outside. I put all that stuff eh? Make log put inside then on fire. Then go check you know. (351-400)

AN: Did you have an umu as well outside or you didn't use that? Emu.

JH: Cook outside? Yeah, outside too? The ulu we cook on the stone can too. Charcoal no? Throw 'em on the stone. The red stone no? They cook. (AN: So that was by the house?) Yeah, by the house, outside the house you get one more shack. You put the house so that the rain no, no good you cook in rain eh? Yeah, just for cover that one, one, big like this room eh? Roof that's all. Then make fire.

AN: And so in the house was just the place to sleep and the kitchen and the bathroom were outside? I see.

JH: Yeah, before they cook outside because you cannot make fire you burn the grass shack! Grass shack no can, look out the house burn down.

AN: So you were the cook of the family?

JH: NO, my mother and my father, all can cook. Yeah. Make it a steam taro fill 'em all inside the, what do you call that, banana leaves. You go steam 'em and you get out, all cook. They like you steam in a pot same thing. That's how we cook our taro, rice. Today kind no learn it that's why they stop. (AN: And you eat it with fish?) Fish? Meat? Pig? Get plenty pig! I used to raise 50 pigs, over 100 I guess! Plenty I raise! You know, down the farm, the other family they get plenty pigs,. Then we make mark the pig go all over Pohoiki. We no eat their pig, they no eat our pig. We know whose pig that they get mark on the ear. Nobody eat your pig. Then 1960 I quit raise pig, because plenty people come here you know, outsiders eh? They eat your pig too you know. They steal pig! That's why I don't raise pig (AN: Did you have chickens?) (401-450) Chickens all over the place. Plenty chicken! You broke the coconut, the chicken eat the coconut. They fat! But we don't like raise somebody else gonna eat 'em you know.

AN: So in Pohoiki when you were small everyone shared the chickens?

JH: Yeah! Plenty chicken, everybody get one by the house. Everybody get chicken, they grow wild! All over the place. Plenty! Plenty chicken. Plenty food uh, coconut.

AN: Did you share food with the other families?

JH: No they get their own. They raise their own. They get mark, every animal get mark. They no touch your pig they get mark. Cattle, cow too, get mark, by the ear. They know you that's why they no bother us too. Then your cow come home, sometimes they go look they go frolicking around eh? By the next day they come back. Plenty animal before people raise. Why work for one dollar one day no?

AN: So, in the Pohoiki community each family was separate from each other family? Were you related to the other families?

JH: Yeah they get their own place. Yeah, sometimes related but no more blood.

END OF SIDE ONE

(0-50)

AN: Oh yes, I am sorry, I am jumping around with my questions, I just remembered. When you went fishing did you have, I think it is called a ko'a?

JH: Oh yes, yes, a ko'a. That's where they put the 'opelu, 'opelu, mackerel. That's one nice fish! Hawaiian like that for make raw, dry fish, prepare the leaves, Japanese, Filipino like that fish. Opelu, haole call it mackerel I think. That one good fish that. Long like this, look like sardine, you know long like one sardine like this. The Hawaiian call it 'opelu. They get the canoe, then they throw the shrimp, you know shrimp? Then they say oh the ko'o like the 'opelu go for the shrimp. Man, plenty there was! Then the Hawaiian put the net with the canoe, the net, they make a circle and they sink 'em way down. Way down the net like this no? Then they put that bait, you know the mackerel, the small fish, chum, the chum, then they broke the bag, all the shrimp go in,

go out, and all the mackerel go for the shrimp, then they pull the net. Plenty! One catch, can go home, fill up the canoe you know, enough.

AN: So you said you just tie stones to the net?

JH: Yeah! The net, make one stone in the center of the net. Then they close the net the fish no come out eh? The fish eating the bait, they pull 'em this net. The net is big like this. Big you know! Way down about 150ft the net from here to about 50ft long. Big like this house you know, sink 'em down. The fish go inside by themselves eh? You pull that stiff up get all the fish. Smart eh? And they get small iron net, small like this. Then they go home enough. (AN: And the shrimp they catch earlier?) Early we catch. Plenty. They go home they divide the fish no? And we get one share. I get one shared because we the ones supply the bait and the pond still in the other side. No more the shrimp now, you get shrimp the river, no more all gone. I don't know what happened to the shrimp. Nobody stay there about for how 50 years eh? The pond still here.

AN: So, when you catch the fish you share with all the family?

JH: Yeah! All the crew was family now. 6 crew get 6 family eh? Divide all the fish. And the one who come all they can fish. (AN: And how would you catch the shrimp?) Oh the kind scoop net. You know the mosquito net? They make the bamboo, they make like one scoop net, then you know where our pond? Hana show you the pond. The pond, my job was make shrimp for them. Then you go right there, you go in the pond like this high. There you take out the net. The net get one stuff you know like one bamboo. Not so big. The net from here to there (about 4 square meters). Then you walk nighttime you go 3 clock in the morning, dark, Then big circle you walk. First you walk like this, like this room in a circle, go, go slow, when you come right in the center of the circle, then you pull up. Plenty inside the net! Then you wen put them in the bucket. You know, you go about 2, 3 time, enough, go home. Only thing hard you gotta go in the morning eh? That's my job I used to catch plenty. Then I get one share for that no? Then one more share they give to the pond owner, then the 4 crew no? (AN: Who was the pond owner?) My grandmother guys, they give it to them. (AN: What was their name?) My grandmother? She get old long Hawaiian name. Ka'apuli they call them. That's her name. Me I get my share because I catch the shrimp. That's all like that. Then they rest, then they see good water go catch some more. We don't stay everyday 'till gone eh? That's why plenty, always get plenty. Today they catch all the fish then they go sell. That's why nothing left eh? Only stone. (51-100) Before I eat good food, I eat lobster, fish, shells, oh man! (AN: How did you catch the lobster?) Net, all net, now in the morning wake up 4, 5, in the net. You go with the torch in the nighttime, plenty, torch you can see them. Only 2, 3, I go home enough, No need greedy. Today they take everything. Nothing left they go sell eh? They go with the boat, today no more nothing. And all those guys stay down there eat the food. Then no more fish what they gonna eat?

AN: So when you cook your fish, and lobster and shrimp, you ate it with taro, uala, ulu, did you have coconut cream?

JH: Yeah! The young coconut I like too! I drink the water. I eat rice. NO more candy. I eat plenty good food on the beach! I always give the guys fish. Plenty I give the old guys, they always come down the beach eh? Piantation guys no? When they come down they always give me something. I catch plenty of their fish. Now, no more nothing.

AN: And your siblings helped you get shrimp and fish?

JH: No, me the last guy. Then pau and the old folks all die no? Then that's why me the last I think. Then my grandfather old, my old man old. No more replacement, Then I went go Honolulu. After the war I come back. Kalapana, all houses. Plenty trees. Then you go today, I no see no houses now. Where the people were all gone, all Honolulu eh? The family. You know those funny kind feelings?

AN: So when you first went to Honolulu for WWII, the rest of your family, your brothers and sisters, they stayed in Pohoiki?

JH: No. They move already, Honolulu. Only my sister stayed, the old one, Hana mother no? They all move, they work over there.

AN: Even when they were just little kids? When did they all go? (101-150)

JH: They leave when, when we was young my grandmother came from some place else. My great grandmother. Kapukini her last name. And my grandmother, she's no dummy that one, when she move here long time ago she went go Lahainaluna school, one of the first graduates you know. Hoh, Lahainaluna was a good school before, she was one of the students. When she came to Puna where I live is one of the house, where the boat before. Before all broke down they make it. My grandmother used to live half mile away, she get big home you know, when I small I remember the house. Yeah big house! And my grandmother she own (unintelligible). Then the Hawaiians tell me your grandmother smart, she wen go college Hilo why she come Pohoiki? She was kind of old, retired. That's why we get land all over the place. Shit! My grandmother, long time ago, when she came back I don't know how long she was there. That's what the old guys tell me, the old Hawaiians no? Your grandmother the one, she speak good English you know. She come from Maui I think. Long time ago no?

AN: And she was your father's mother?

JH: And when they came here, we get land on Honolulu, plenty of land, my father guys! Where the land come from much too (unintelligible) for my grandmother. So they wen move Pohoiki, my father guys. Shit!

AN: So your family has been in Pohoiki a long time?

JH: Yeah, kinda long. I don't know how long my grandmother guys came form some place else. Not too long maybe huh in the 1800s I tink, sometime. Maybe 200 years ago no? They came down this side. Not so long eh? I tink maybe ah 80 years, not so long ago.

AN: So your grandmother, she, she bought the land and then passed it on to your father?

JH: Yeah, yeah. But when she was passed to my father, then we wen get hard luck boy. Because ah, when my mother was alive, my father, he take care of the Filipinos before. He was one of the police you know, camp police. He, he the nice man, Filipino like him. He was a police my father. Then, then what happened, he the midwife, and he smart! He went go college too, smart! He about big man! He's a midwife. He help plenty people, then 1929 we get hard luck. My brother wen born you know. He's a midwife, ahh! My mother was 29 year old. Ah my mother. I was 10 year old. Hey, something wrong! My mother. She like you but my brother stuck. The afterbirth stuck. 3 clock in the morning. God (unintelligible). I go, me and my brother, my brother 8, you go look for help. And then they, the plantation came, my father was the police, camp police, no car them days no? Where you gone bring 'em? No more hospital or doctor. So, my mother was

passed away, died. Leave 8 of us! And my, uh, my oldest sister, Hana Mother, was 17. So hard life no? Yeah, all us.

AN: Oh, sorry. So, the, the, the, your father used all the land mauka and makai?

JH: Yeah, land eh? Honolulu too. Then, eh, what wrong? We get ah, he get an income every, every month land, \$300 month. (AN: From his land in Honolulu? He rented it?) Honolulu. Yeah, we get land over there, Honolulu. (AN: Whereabouts?) Da kine, car by, where the rapid transit. You know the place the bus. Before we get car. Couple land there! Then what happened, when my father, my grandmother, my father wen come less sick (unintelligible). And my father, he no get help! All us all young. And the rest of the other family either too old or too young. (151-200) Us no more, him only him, and his mind was cut off! Then who, the lawyer, kine crook eh? Yeah. Because he was sick. Yeah, but if was us that was like this all 20 we can help yeah? We was all 10 year old, who could help him? So the put up the sign, That's the trouble we wen get for us. But he like get \$300, that time he was not sick. \$300 a month, that's plenty money them days. You buy 100lb, I remember, a hundred pound rice, \$3. Yeah! Yeah, \$300! Yeah, the guys was good living them days. So, we stay one house, we get house Hilo, all over the place! (AN: So were you a rich family?) Yeah, yeah, there we were. But always stay with the old folks. My, my old man make, my mother make young, my father too no? Died, they died, so I stayed with the Pohoiki family. (AN: You were hanai?). Eh? No, I stay with them. They tell me that's why. You know, the. They like my father, us family but no more blood. (AN: Which family?) Kupie they call them, Kupie family. They call us family. Hawaiians stay like that you know, you come good friend, ah family. (AN: So you were how old?) Eh? That time I was all young, us guys. I was about 13, 14 like that. (AN: And your mother and your father make and so you moved house?) Yeah! When I was kinda, I was kind of old. But when I was young we go there all the time. We, us we live there, they live in the mountains eh? We raise together every time. When they come down we stay in the same house, they stay in the mountain. That's where my father go get the taro. Yeah.

AN: That's good. So your community was helpful. They helped you.

JH: Yeah, yeah, they like us. Yeah, because us no more parents that's why. They like us you know. Me, my brothers all like that. Then, then each time the old people go, they go die, then the younger ones move out, No more work this side no? That's why they go Honolulu, they go all over the place. Some went in the service, they see the other country, nice, they wen stay mainland eh? Over here no more work that's why it was.

AN: But so, your land now is smaller than when your grandmother bought it?

JH: Yeah, yeah. All over the place. That's where us guys went. My, my father, he's kind land you know. That's why the Filipino like my father. He go catch fish, every time, he good fisherman! Big catch fish! He go home, in the camp, he leave a couple no? Plenty fish, all the fish he give, all the Filipino eat, he take only one. One enough for us. He give them all the fish. That's what they like about my old man: He go fishing, he get plenty fish he come back. (AN: What was his name?) Isaac, my father. Good fisherman my father was. (201-250). (AN: You fished with him?) Yeah, smart fisherman, any kind smart. He smart because he went school, he no the dumb kind.

AN: So he taught you how to fish? When um, when you were kids did your parents punish you if you were naughty?

JH: What the kids? No can! No, the older one, the old folk, no fool around, you get one word, no second (chances I think?). You goin' get beat up you know. They train them when young, They come good kids. They go school. No more problem before. You good name take home. The teachers no more complain. Today what? They swear like that, how, how, can you come good the kids all swear? You hear the TV all swear kind, music, they no nice. Shit!

AN: So you went to school?

JH: I wen go seven grade. And I wen walk. I walk, hoo, far boy! Six family on the way. From the school I walk 5 mile way down the road, Kalapana, you know the highway no? That's where the school, right by the ocean. Opihikao school. That's far! 5 mile from Pohoiki. Not like today kid they no go school. I never miss one day of school! All us. When you go sleep that's the only time you rest. I walked the 5 mile everyday, all us. Kind of few of us in the Pohoiki time they walk the kids. How do you like that? (AN: So you'd get up early in the morning . . . ?) Yeah, we walk, early we walk. Everyday 5 mile. Past Mackenzie Park way down. That's life I get. Shit! Walk up and down school. Strong, the leg. So when I went, I went go service eh? What I do the haole no can do? You, you go basic training eh? Hoh! You look what I do, I can run all day I no tired, because I go school everyday, walk eh? I used to it, I go fishing. That time I could walk all night, I no stop. Yeah. That's what training I get. Me, my brothers all can walk. That's why I lucky. I went in the service, the basic training, I no train! I let the other guys do it, I sit down only. I, I've been (unintelligible), when I go the haole no can follow!

AN: So your elementary school, first it was in Kapoho, and then you went to Opihikao?

JH: Yeah, Kapoho, then Opihikao. (AN: O was what grades?) Oh, Kapoho, when I wen Kapoho I go until 5th then we go Opihikao then you complete 7. (AN: And you would walk to Kapoho as well?) Yeah, my sister guys all walk the, Hana mother guys no? (251-300). Kapoho is far. Opihikao is more near. Kapoho almost 6 mile over no? How you like go school good fun? Me I like go school because the only time I rest when I go school. (AN: And what did you learn?) You stay home, you gotta do something! You learn the kind, (Unintelligible), ABC kind no? When I read, then I read plenty book you know. I get (unintelligible) reading. Yeah, I read book that's why. I can write good, I can draw. Good thing strong mind I get no? My mind is powerful you know. Because my mind I no make no good use, when I young I make good use no? I help plenty people you know. Adult folks tell me you make good your mind you no worry when you come old. Someday you gonna find out. I wen find out boy. You get mind, you make good use no? You no think no good, you don't think too good, your mind come (unintelligible) no good.

AN: So I think all the children when you were young had to work hard and study hard.

JH: Some kind no work hard. But us gotta work with the hands, The mind no? you gotta study. That's what make your body move no? Your mind come weak, ah come lazy. Any kind is like that eh? Your mind weak eh. They call haole, by you get panic no? You fear, sometimes, you, you go crazy, you no like to lose. (AN: So Opihikao finished at 7th grade yeah? So what did children do after that?) After that, hoh I was with the old folks. Because I was stayed back. My father he was, I go Kapoho school, early, early, then I go Opihikao school. Me not so bad, some guys go worse. The ones before me, my days were (unintelligible). Then they wen get school bus. You know, (laughs) when I, I finished school they get school bus. Lucky the kids. (AN: So you just went back and worked on the land?) Yeah, that's what I like do, work the land. Them days, kind of few of us. Not like today. Today people all kind junk kine, so the land never can come nice. They always sit down all days and smoke pakalolo. Always talk big.

AN: Yeah I went to Pohoiki and there's these um old foundations. That's from the coffee mill?

JH: Yeah! Coffee mill that! You go up the road eh? That's coffee mill, all the foundation broke. The haoles came and take all the lumber. The lumber. They take all the wood. Expensive wood that. They go and make guitar, cut 'em, wen take 'em all home. The hippies wen take 'em I think. (AN: And who owned the coffee mill again?) No, no, the coffee mill. When I see the coffee mill never grind, Brand new, Hawaiians no touch something no belong to them. The coffee mill was so perfect, that in the 50s, how many people go touch something that no belong? Then another generation come eh? They steal everything in the mill, all the grind, everything. 1950 was brand new. The glass, all the stuff inside, the machine. Nobody touch. You like, make fire all the place warm you know. Big, open for the coffee. You can put 1000 bread inside. Big oven! That's where they roast the coffee. You can bake bread, or roast meat. Today no more nothing. Hawaiians they don't touch something that don't belong to them, that's their custom. Even you were the one with valuable stuff, they don't touch. That's somebody stuff that. That's how they train them you know, young time. Then after that you, you break the law you no can sleep you know, nighttime. Then you gotta go and excuse their stuff you take you know. You cannot sleep! Old people heal the hypnotize, you cannot sleep you do wrong that's why! They no thieves.

AN: Well, I think I shall end the interview here and next time I shall come again and ask some more questions about the railroad.

JH: Yeah! I am the last guy that ride the railroad, ooh nice!! And I like them days when I young. I can go Honolulu any time I like. Even Hilo. You catch the boat that boat is 200 something feet big and you pay \$15 you can go Honolulu. Yeah! I go Honolulu every time, I go Maui.

351-onwards general Chit chat