

Interview with Maile Moulds-Carr

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by C. Langlas

CL: When did you move to Volcano and move back?

MM: Probably 90 or 91. And then we moved back three years ago, 2006.

CL: So how does it feel to be back?

MM: Different, cause it's a whole different life. When I moved out we had little kids. And now I'm back and we're retired, and they're all grown up with their own kids, so it feels different. And Kikala is not the same as Kalapana. Kalapana was places we remembered; Kikala is still very new. Kalapana, when I moved in, I still remembered when we were kids and had gone—like Kalapana Gardens, we had gone horseback riding in that area—and then the old church and behind the church for swimming and all of that. Whereas Kikala now has ten-foot cliffs, higher than ten-foot cliffs. And, you know, you can't get close to the ocean, so it's totally different.

CL: What seems good about it?

MM: Just being back. Volcano you don't hear beach. And in Kikala you've got this constant sound of the ocean that we missed. What's better is we have a lovely ocean view that we didn't have in Kalapana. But what's really missing is the community. That's the part. But we like the quiet. We're thoroughly enjoying our stay right now cause it's quiet, and you can hear the ocean. And even though the coquis are a ways down the road, it's so quiet you can hear them. We're enjoying that part. And there's a resident pueo. Every so often you hear him. We're just enjoying the quiet when we're here.

CL: So down there still is just Kau'i and you?

MM: And then Brenda Pavao, she's been staying there. They're building as they can afford. They don't want to get a loan or anything, but they keep the place very nice. They keep close to the land.

CL: But she's living there?

MM: Yes, they came in about the same time Kau'ilani folks came in—which was at least a year before we came.

Gilbert Senior's lot was a picture of what the old Hawaiian properties looked like. Since he passed away, nobody's been keeping up. Actually it's his wife, Auntie Adeline, who really did most of the planting. But Gilbert Junior now. His wife Emily's been staying down there. We had a N.Y.'s party this year. His brother Mark organized it. And so we had a New Year's Eve neighborhood party. It was the kind of party where everybody went to the other parties first, and they all ended up there. So by 8:00 there was hardly anybody there, by midnight we had a whole crowd of people. His older brother Gilbert provided the tents, and rather than take his tents back home, he put a tent

on his property. And his wife Emily moved into it. Cause Gilbert's gone most of the week. You know, he works in O`ahu. She just moved in, she's been down there ever since. So this was the impetus for Gilbert to get going on building his property. So they got their cesspool in and he sent off for a kit. They're going to use a kit for building. As soon as the kit gets here, he'll apply for his building permit. But he already has his cesspool dug.

Cl: So there's few people.

MM: Oh, they're—in the last year there's 1,2,3,4,5,6 cesspools went in. Seven cesspools. And Jessie Kaawaloa got his mother and father's property. He's going to bring in equipment to do his cesspool, and now all of a sudden all the Kaawaloas want him to do theirs too, so that should be another 5 or 6 cesspools.

CL: So it sounds like things are really starting to move.

MM: Yes, the new group that got their properties, which was in 2005 when I was building, are a lot more enthusiastic. In many ways they've been the movers and shakers. Although the people who are actually building right now already had their properties—like Leroy and Gilbert. But, I think the new people just gave them that impetus.

CL: I need to ask you about the history of the whole thing. You probably don't know what years, maybe I'll get them from somebody else.

MM: Yes, Kau'i's better with that.

CL: The first thing was it took a while for the state to give the land, right? cause I think Mililani was involved.

MM: Yes, but we actually signed the lease back in about 91. We all did the initial—there were 60 lots for houses, there was one lot for a community center of 4 acres. There was another lot set aside of 11 acres, unspecified. That me and Tootsie want to put an old folks home there. And we signed... I know we signed our lease in 1991, and that time they awarded I think about 50 out of the 60. Now some people never signed their lease, because they objected to some parts of their lease, like they're not supposed to keep pigs there. And then we were told that we couldn't really start building until the state had insurance coverage for the whole thing. And then the insurance said they wouldn't cover it until we had proper infrastructure. And all the while Mr. Cayetano was in office, he would not sign the bill to permit the final phase of it. You know, they had it bulldozed, they had it surveyed, that's when we got our leases, cause we could identify our lots then. But after that, they put in the water—waterline came down—and the final phase was to get the roads paved, so we could dedicate it to the county. And that was what we were waiting for. And Cayetano's objection I believe was because he felt that there was nothing in the bill that had set up matching funds. You know, the state was gonna pay a certain amount, but we needed somebody to match it. Well, they finally got OHA to match the funds. And the final phase then was to pave the roads. By then, the electricity

had gotten quite close, it had gotten to Kehena. So there was enough money to bring the electricity in. So we ended up with full utilities. And the original intent was not for that. We were quite lucky in that.

CL: Was Cayetano still in then?

MM: No. Kau'ilani went to see Lingle. And after they did everything, they ended up with some extra money. And this is what the current bugaboo is. The state had their bulldozers down there, and they asked about the community four acres. And Russell Kokubun gave them the permission to go ahead and bulldoze it. And we were actually down there when we heard the bulldozer. So then Kau'ilani went down there and gave them a piece of her mind. See, we had plans for the community center, drawn up plans already sitting in the DLNR offices, and fully 50% of it was to be kept natural. But they went ahead and bulldozed the whole thing. Problem is now we have all junk plants there.

CL: Yeah, of course.

MM: And, you know, Laura Thielen put her foot in, cause there was a letter in the Tribune Herald that she sent, saying that some of the people with B and Bs and what have you are not taking proper care of the land. We picked that up and wrote her a letter and said, as stewards of the land how can you go ahead and bulldoze this piece of property, when we wanted it kept natural, and say you're a steward of the land. And I actually asked the people to come give us quotes of how much it take now that it's been bulldozed, how much it would take to plant grass and everything. And the landscaper that I asked to come up to give us quotes came down, came out of his truck, looked around, and he went, "virgin ohia forest," priceless. And I said, "Can I quote you?" Cause that's what they bulldozed. So at this point, we are working with the County of Hawai'i to take over the lease on it. Cause they seem disinclined to give a non-profit, which is what we have, the lease on it.

CL: So the county would hold the lease.

MM: Yeah. We're using the Volcano Community Center, the Cooper Center Complex, as our model. And we've already talked to Billy and he said they'll go ahead and try to acquire the land and the lease. And we would be happy to build, take care of it, and everything.

CL: So they would hold the lease and there would be an agreement with you I suppose.

MM: Um-hm. Just like Cooper Center with Volcano community.

CL: That agreement would be with the community association? or not?

MM: Well, we have two things, we have the community association which is Na 'Ohana o Kalapana, but a community organization cannot be a non-profit. So our non-

profit that we organized is Ka Lau o Na One o Puna. Now there is a slight difference in the membership, cause Ka Lau is open to any of the families from the Kapa'ahu area who lost their lands to the national park in the takeover. And they're the ones that originally had the fishing rights. But then they extended it to all the Kalapana families in Kalapana and what have you. So you could conceivably be a member of Ka Lau, but not a member of Na 'Ohana. Na 'Ohana is a community organization, so it's the lessees only.

CL: You could also be from Kalapana rather than Kapa'ahu and be part of Ka Lau o Na One o Puna?

MM: Yes, you can.

CL: Or even from Mokuhulu—like Aku?

MM: Yes.

CL: So Kau'i is the president of...

MM: Kau'i is the treasurer of both. And according to the by-laws of Ka Lau, she claims she's not supposed to be treasurer. Because the by-laws do say that to be an officer in the organization, you have to be from one of those original families, which she isn't.

CL: I never knew what her connection was.

MM: She's from O'ahu, actually. But she had land in Kalapana Gardens.

CL: So, coming back to the community center, it would be Ka Lau o Na One o Puna that would have the agreement with the county.

MM: I think it would have to be. Cause they're the ones that write for grants. Now, let me tell you who the officers are, Ka Lau o Na One o Puna, president is Leroy Dikito. And the president of Na 'Ohana is Gilbert Hauani'o. Leroy is... Do you know Queenie Ka'awaloa? (CL: No, I don't.) She's a glamorous woman. He's her son.

CL: So Queenie is whose daughter?

MM: I'm not sure. I just remember Queenie. As a kid, you couldn't miss her. He's a Kahilihiwa too.

(bit omitted about Johannsen's genealogy)

CL: So the leases now Maile, it's not under DHHL? it's separate.

MM: No, we're not at all connected to them. It was a special bill that was passed through the state legislature [for Kikala-Keokea]. We're totally different. So do emphasize that. People always assume that we're Hawaiian homelands and we're not.

CL: So, now, 50 signed the lease, and then there was a separate opening of lots?

MM: Yes, about 2005, when we actually moved back. There were ones that did not sign their lease. There were quite a few, there were like 15 in all. I think ten were not assigned in the beginning. And then it was, I think about 15 lots. I can give you the exact number because I have the people. I can count it up and I can call you that. And at this time it was a drawing that they had at the community center in Pahoā. And as usual, there was some complaint about how things were run. Apparently, it looked like they didn't shake the box up, so the ones that came late are the ones that got the lease. Typical DLNR. They don't know how to handle us, you know. I think we scare them.

CL: Maybe they never had a drawing before. They probably don't know what they're doing.

MM: That's what happened. You know, like one of the Hauānio girls got a property, well her boyfriend also got a property. He arrived at the same time she did, you know. But there was a lot of Hauānios that ended up with property at that drawing. To the point that the whole Keokea side is considered Hauānio corner.

CL: The original one wasn't a drawing right?

MM: It was. We drew a number, and we picked our properties. And none of us had actually seen it, you know. Whereas this one now, I wasn't there, I came there late. I have to check on that, whether they just pulled a number. No, I think they probably did the same thing. Pulled a name, the person picked the property.

CL: But on the first drawing, everybody who wanted one got one, right? Cause there were only 50.

MM: Right.

CL: Do you have any idea how many people wanted one the second time?

MM: More than there were. By about ten or so more. Quite a few. Well, they saw all of the infrastructure. We even have streetlights. Which we don't turn on{?}

CL: So, now who comes to the community association meetings?

MM: Very few.

CL: Mostly those who are living down there?

MM: It's the same old people. Mark claims that there's a lot of hakakā. And as I told Mark, I don't have patience with that. Cause I think there are things to be done, and I believe in doing it. You know, much as the Cultural Day has grown—you know we had

twice as many demonstrators as we had last year—not many more people are involved with it. And they were complaining about it, and I said, number one, it was much easier this year, cause I knew where to go for what, you know. And we had maybe two extra people that were involved in it. And my feeling is, I don't know why people don't come to meetings. I think, number one, they're busy. And, I don't know. They seem to have to need to see things happening before they do. You know, that's why we keep on going.

CL: Well, I have some idea—for Aku—that when there is what he calls *namunamu*, when people are complaining, then he wants to be out of there. And I'm sure that there are other people like him, when that comes up then they're gone.

MM: Yeah. But, you know, like Aku, had already set us aside on his calendar, that he was gonna be there.

CL: Oh yeah, he'll be there to do his demonstration, yes. But to come to a meeting is another thing for him.

MM: No, there were times when Aku was the only one there. Or he came with his sister, and they were the only ones there. But, I just don't have patience with that. I feel that if there are things that need doing, just do it. I can't sit there and have any patience with grumbling. And I think a part of the problem is they feel *Kau'ilani* is an upstart. And my feeling is, I don't think they really appreciate how much *Kau'ilani* and *Tootsie* put in to getting this subdivision. They are the ones who went to meetings, stuck to it, and kept going. And I just think most people are ingrates, really, not to appreciate. One of the things I did want to do at some point is to sit down and write up the story of how it all happened. Cause every so often I get snippets, like they were talking about the time that they had to go to OHA to do the presentation. And they had it in Hana. And they were talking about driving out there, and trying to decide how they wanted to present it, and all of this, and it's a great story.

CL: So, is *Tootsie* and officer also?

MM: *Tootsie* is the Vice-president of *Na 'Ohana*, and *Julia* is the secretary of *Kalau*. *Kalau*'s officers are: *Leroy*'s President, Vice-president is *Gilbert*, *Julia Peleiholani Kaawaloa* is the secretary, *Kau'ilani* is the Treasurer.

And this one [*Na 'Ohana*], one of the *Wright* girls is Secretary, and *Kau'ilani* is Treasurer. What I like about *Kau'ilani* is you can trust her with money.

CL: I'm not surprised that people would say she's an outsider, that's...

MM: Typical. Of *Kalapana*.

And I'm a little bit too, cause I didn't actually grow up there.

We do have a lot of plans for the subdivision. As *Kau'i* emphasized, what's our goal for our next cultural day? And it really is the culture. We want to preserve the culture. So, as we discuss at our meeting, okay, so they bulldozed this property. Then what we want to do is to replant it with Hawaiian plants. And I had all of these *hala* plants I've been

growing. I've started some new ones already. And hala grows really well, and coconuts. So we want to replant. And I also have a lot of seedlings of koko'olau tea that we want to introduce back.

We also—I don't know if you know that Chuck—KalaunaoneoPuna has the stewardship. And it actually is registered in the Bureau of Conveyances as our property. Is the lower half, the makai segment of Kahauale'a.

CL: Yeah, I do know that, and that was something I wanted to ask you about. So all the way down to the ocean?

MM: Yeah. The makai segment. When I looked at the map in the county office, I think there are actually three segments there. And I think we have the two bottom ones. The bottom-most one is not enough acreage. So, like Punalu'u and all of those are in that segment.

So I'm starting hala plants for those too. A'ahalenui, you know the warm pong? the keys drop, and they start beautifully. So every so often when we go swimming, I pull them up. As I told Billy, I've got them in the biggest pots now. They have to be transplanted in the ground. So you better get on it. And he said, alright, alright. And actually, I planted three in the ground, just wanting to see how big they would have been if we'd planted them out.

CL: So, the meetings of the association are separate from the meetings of Ka Lau o na One?

MM: No, they're not. We haven't met as Kalaunaone.

CL: So who normally comes Maile? Not that that's going to go into the book, but I'm just curious.

MM: It varies, okay? The biggest ones we've had, we've had the Makuakanes, Tasha and her mom Maile, who are my neighbors; we've had some of the Pavaos, Brenda and her sister; we've had a lot of the Hauanios, Kalani; we've had Floyd [Quihano] there, we've had Samson there; we've had Jessie [Kaawaloa] at a meeting, we usually have Andrea; we have had Aku, Gilbert, and his brother Mark is really reliable, he's always there; the Peleiholanis, we've had Julia and of course Tootsie's always there; for a time Shek was coming, Kealoha—what's his first name? I think it's Gilbert—and his sister Rose. His sister Rose had a booth there. She is kind of the poster girl for our efforts at getting businesses for the local people. What she does is she goes to garage sales, and whenever she sees an old Sig Zane shirt she buys it. She makes individual handbags using that material. She calls it the "zag" and she sells it for \$39. And last year, she sold out. And people followed up, people told other people, and she's been just tryin to keep up with it.

CL: So was this the third cultural day?

MM: Second. I'm writing the grant for the third.

CL: Who gives you money for the grant?

MM: The first one was Research and Development, and it was left-over funds that they had.

CL: R&D from the county?

MM: Yeah. I applied in March and it was in August, so it was really rushing. And this time Emily Nae'ole gave her discretionary funds. And there's a grant for cultural tourism that they want to push. But unfortunately the deadline is the 5<sup>th</sup> of October. But, we're made for it. So I guess I'll go ahead and apply for it.

(bit omitted)

CL: [demonstrators at cultural day] I saw Aku, and then there was the two boys doing thrownet.

MM: That's was Samson's. Samson was in charge, the boys were his grandchildren.

CL: And then I saw Fayu pounding poi.

MM: And then I had Mike Kyser doing the coconut weaving. And I had two Marshallese, Lina was doing lauhala bracelets. And then the other guy, Keola, was doing the squares made out of coconut leaf. And then Tina Aiona was doing the haku leis.

CL: Somebody was doing some carving I think.

MM: Yeah, Talofa, he's Samoan. Drums. And then we had Dale Kaawaloa working with the kids. He had two konane boards. And then he was teaching them how to make those tops out of kukui nuts. And we had Bernie.

Real popular among the kids was canoe making. And Kimo [Blankenfeld] said he's gonna have to get a bigger one next time. He had to really keep an eye, cause they were really going at it. He's Tootsie's son-in-law.

(Kimo and Tootsie's daughter renting a lot at Kaimu with noni on it. Make noni and sell it to Japan.)

CL: Do you think anybody has built on the new flow?

MM: You haven't been down there? They've got more houses than we do. You should go down there and see sometime.

What happened was the association went and got some FEMA money—Kalapana Gardens—and they got enough money to survey, put in the main roads like Kalapana Avenue, Duff Avenue, Piilani. So the main roads were bulldozed in, and folks started building. There's at least a dozen houses.



CL: All in Kalapana Gardens? Has anybody built outside Kalapana Gardens?

MM: I think so. You know the road that continues down, the old government road, I think there's at least one house on that. And I think there's one where Aku used to be, up that way.

And Auntie Minnie's back there, you know. She lives there most of the time. She comes back on Wednesday to Nanawale for the senior center get-together on Wednesdays, but most of the time she's down there. Drives herself down there. She really likes being down there. And apparently, Uncle Willie had koa sitting under the house forever. And Kaleo used it. He redid her house for her, and he used it in the railings and such.

She told me a story that was kind of funny. She said one day, two of her sons, on separate occasions, had seen her driving into town. You know, to Hilo. They gave her good scoldings for picking up strange men. They both saw a man sitting next to her in the car. But there was nobody there. She said, Uncle Willie is here. I know he's here.

(interview ends)