

Mōkapu:
A Paradise on the Peninsula

Stories From Not So Long Ago

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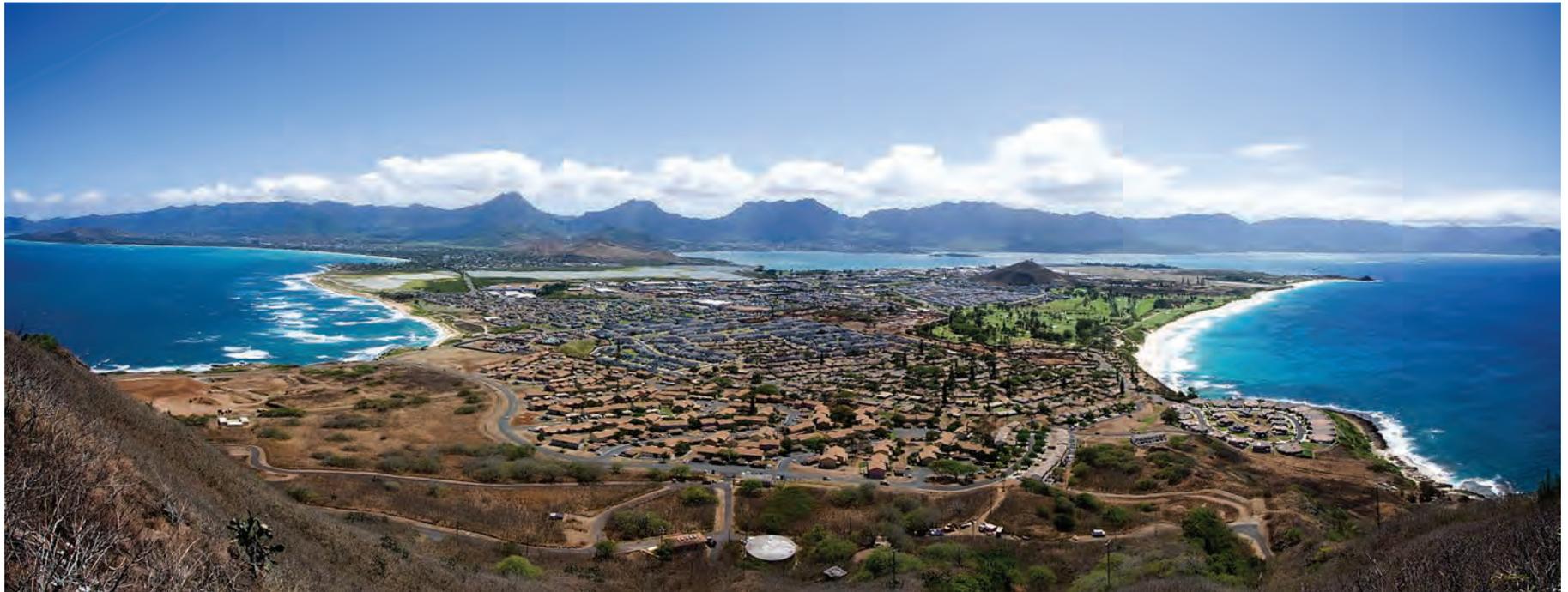
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The View Across the 21st Century Peninsula

The modern landscape of Mōkapu Peninsula is an expression of Marine Corps order. Administration complexes, training and operations facilities, and Runway 4/22 and its hangars speak to the military mission. New family neighborhoods, commercial centers, and Klipper Golf Course serve the community of Marines, Sailors, and their families.

Underlying this landscape is a foundation of times past from not so long ago. In the decades before World War II, Mōkapu Peninsula was home to a community of hard-laboring farmers and ranchers, weekend fishermen, and Honolulu families relaxing at their country beach homes; workers cared for exotic birds at a government game farm, and manned radio towers run by Pan American Airways. This book recounts the stories of this community, of the people who worked, lived, and played at Mōkapu Peninsula before it was transformed into the military landscape of today.

The View from the Hill

Years before Marine Corps Base Hawaii came into being, Mōkapu Peninsula was a country paradise of quiet, open space, with a premium of rich fishing grounds in both bay and ocean. Grazing cattle on short-stubbed grass pasture, farm fields and farm houses, and scattered, small groves of scrub trees were all that marked the Mōkapu landscape. The western shoreline was a jagged boundary with a shallow reef that, at low tide, was a walkable bridge to the small off-shore rock called Kekepa Island. To the southwest along what is now Runway 4/22, an accretionary sand bar of wetlands, marsh, and low beach berms jutted into Kāneʻohe Bay.



The Hill at the Center of the Peninsula.

Kansas Tower sits atop a distinctive volcanic cone called Puʻu Hawaiʻi Loa. Residents on the peninsula in the first half of the 20th century called it simply “the hill.”



Pyramid Rock, 1930, looking southeast.



Looking south across the fishponds.

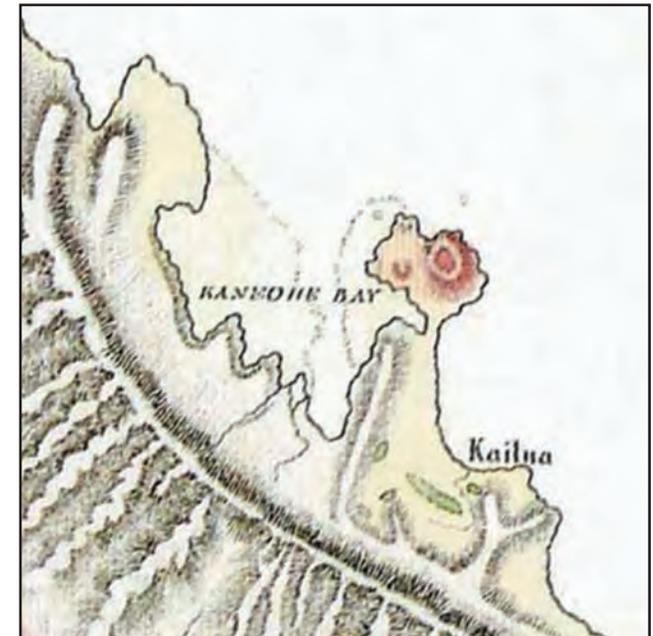
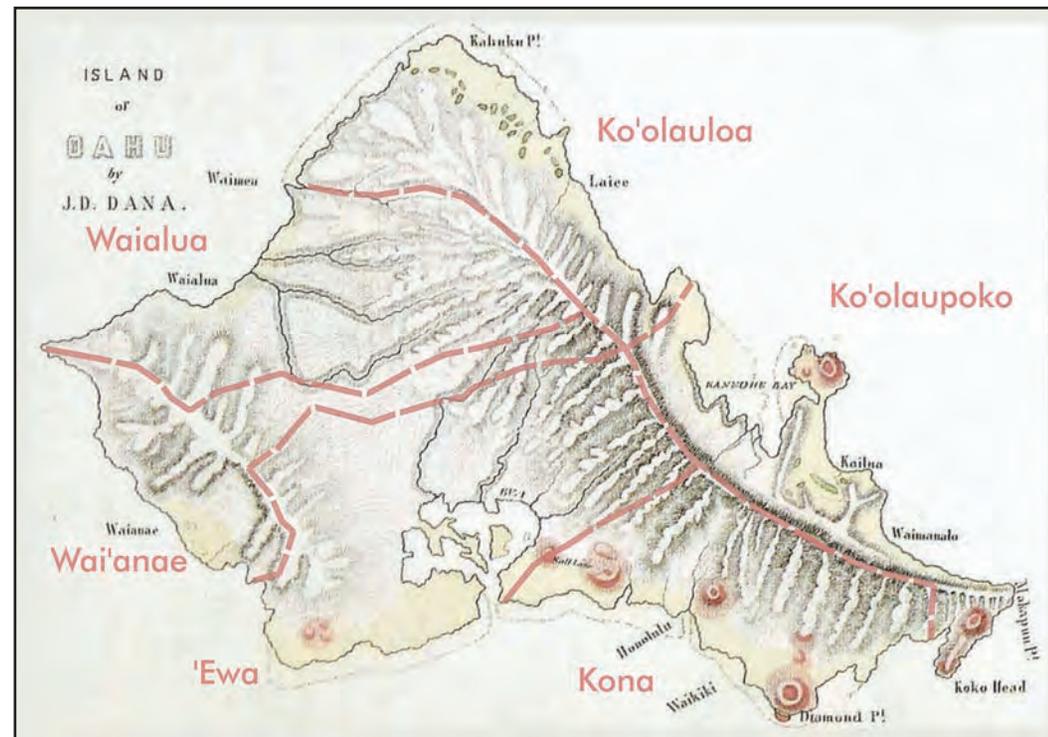
Heleloa Dune, Moku Manu Island, and Ulupaʻu Crater, 1939, looking east from Puʻu Hawaiʻi Loa.



Mōkapu at the Time of Western Contact

British Captain James Cook made landfall in Hawai'i in 1778, the first documented Western contact with the islands. He was followed in short order by European and American explorers and traders whose interests were far different from what existed in Hawai'i. These newcomers entered into economic activities that included cattle ranching, collecting natural resources like sandalwood that had a world market, and setting up shop in growing urban centers like Honolulu.

Mōkapu, and Kāne'ohe, in general, were far from the attentions of foreigners. It was not until the U.S. Exploring Expedition of 1840-1841 that Kāne'ohe Bay and its environs were documented in detail. Scientists of the expedition, like geologist James Dwight Dana, were intrigued by the natural history of the islands.

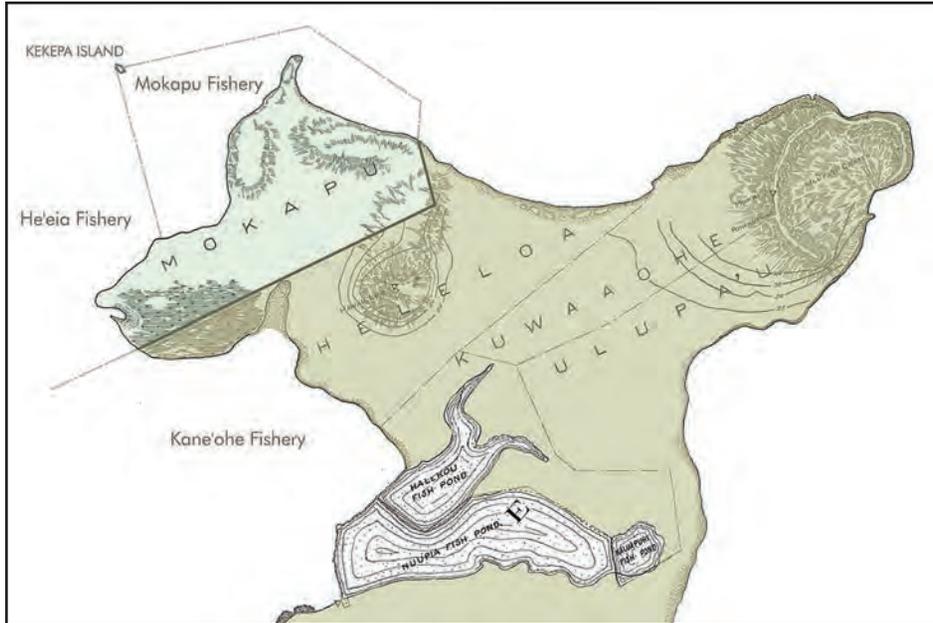


Portion of J.D. Dana's map of O'ahu, showing detail of Mōkapu Peninsula.

This was the first geological map created of any portion of Hawai'i. The yellow denotes an elevated coral plain, the pink refers to basaltic lava, and red marks volcanic tuff cones.

J.D. Dana's map of O'ahu, with an overlay of traditional Hawaiian district boundaries.

At the time of Western Contact, each island was divided into districts; and each district was subdivided into political-social units called *ahupua'a*. The archetypal *ahupua'a* extended from the ocean to the mountains, and thus contained the wide range of resources to support an economically independent community.



The 'ili on Mōkapu Peninsula, including associated fisheries.



Ha'ikū Valley from Mōkapu Peninsula, 1920.

Mōkapu Peninsula was part of two *abupua'a* in the district of Ko'olaupoko: He'eia and Kāne'ohe.

He'eia *abupua'a* encompassed the western third of the peninsula (called the 'ili of Mōkapu) and extended inland into the steep-cliffed Ha'ikū and 'Ioleka'a Valleys. Although Mōkapu 'ili superficially appears isolated from the main *abupua'a* lands, it was, in actuality, linked to the rest of the *abupua'a* by fisheries in Kāne'ohe Bay that were a vital part of the *abupua'a* resources.

Kāne'ohe *abupua'a* occupied the eastern two-thirds of the peninsula and stretched inland through a broad amphitheater of rolling plain and small valleys to the crest of the Ko'olau Range. Kāne'ohe was considered the richest area in Ko'olaupoko District and among the most productive in the islands. In the Kāne'ohe portion of the peninsula were the 'ili of Heleloa, Kuwa'aohe, Kaluapuhiwaho, and Ulupa'u.

Kāne'ohe from Nu'uuanu Pali, in 1887 and 2013.

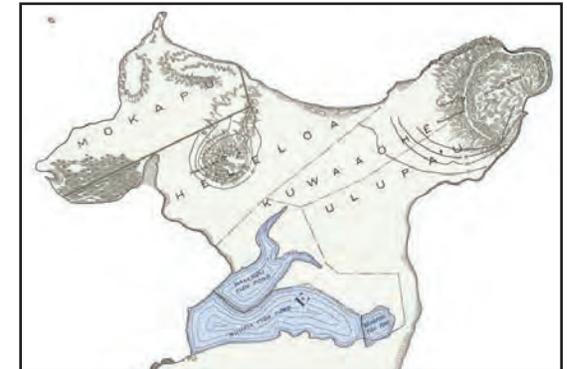


Hawaiians lived on Mōkapu Peninsula for at least 500 to 800 years before Western Contact. Farmers cultivated dryland crops like sweet potato for food, and gourds for household utensils (a variety of gourd called *īpu 'awa'awa*, which had medicinal qualities, was still being grown on the peninsula in the mid-19th century). They tended groves of pandanus trees for the leaves to weave into mats and baskets, and *wauke* plants for *kapa* (paperbark cloth). The highly prized wetland taro might have been grown in the marshy area at the center of the peninsula. Mōkapu people fished in the protected waters of Kāneʻohe Bay, in Kailua Bay, and in the deep ocean to the north; and took advantage of the rich shore resources.



The fishponds of Mōkapu Peninsula.

Just as they did in the long ago past, the fishponds form a watery barrier between the Oʻahu mainland and the peninsula.



Mōkapu Peninsula, 1914.

Drawn by F.P. Pierce, using data from an 1872 map by C.J. Lyons and J. Brown.

There were at least two small villages on the peninsula, as well as scattered houses along the coastline. Religious activity focused around shrines dedicated to fostering good harvests and good fishing. The people of Mōkapu buried their dead in the sand dunes on the north and east shores.

With walls up to six feet wide, the massive fishponds of Mōkapu are an indication of political significance since only chiefs could command the labor to build such magnificent monuments. Based on modern paleoenvironmental research, they were being used from as early as the A.D. 15th or 16th centuries.

The ponds fall in the *āhupuaʻa* of Kāneʻohe, contributing to its great wealth of resources. Nuʻupia, which was still active in the early 1900s, is the largest pond at 215 acres. Next in size is the 92-acre Halekou Pond. Kaluapuhi is the smallest pond. East of Kaluapuhi was a set of shallow, constructed basins that were used to collect sea salt, an essential resource for ancient Hawaiians, just as it is today.

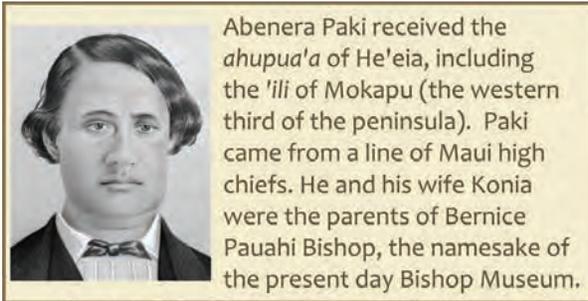
Another smaller pond that did not survive the ravages of time and change was Paʻohua Pond on the west coast of the peninsula. All that was left when it was recorded in 1933 by archaeologist J. Gilbert McAllister was a “low line of stones completely covered at high tide.” According to local informants, however, it was “the most famous fishing place in the region.”

Mōkapu in the 19th Century

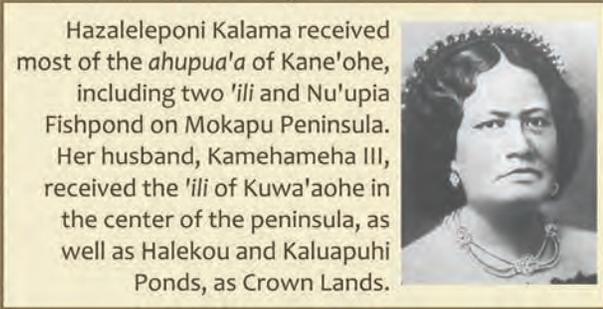
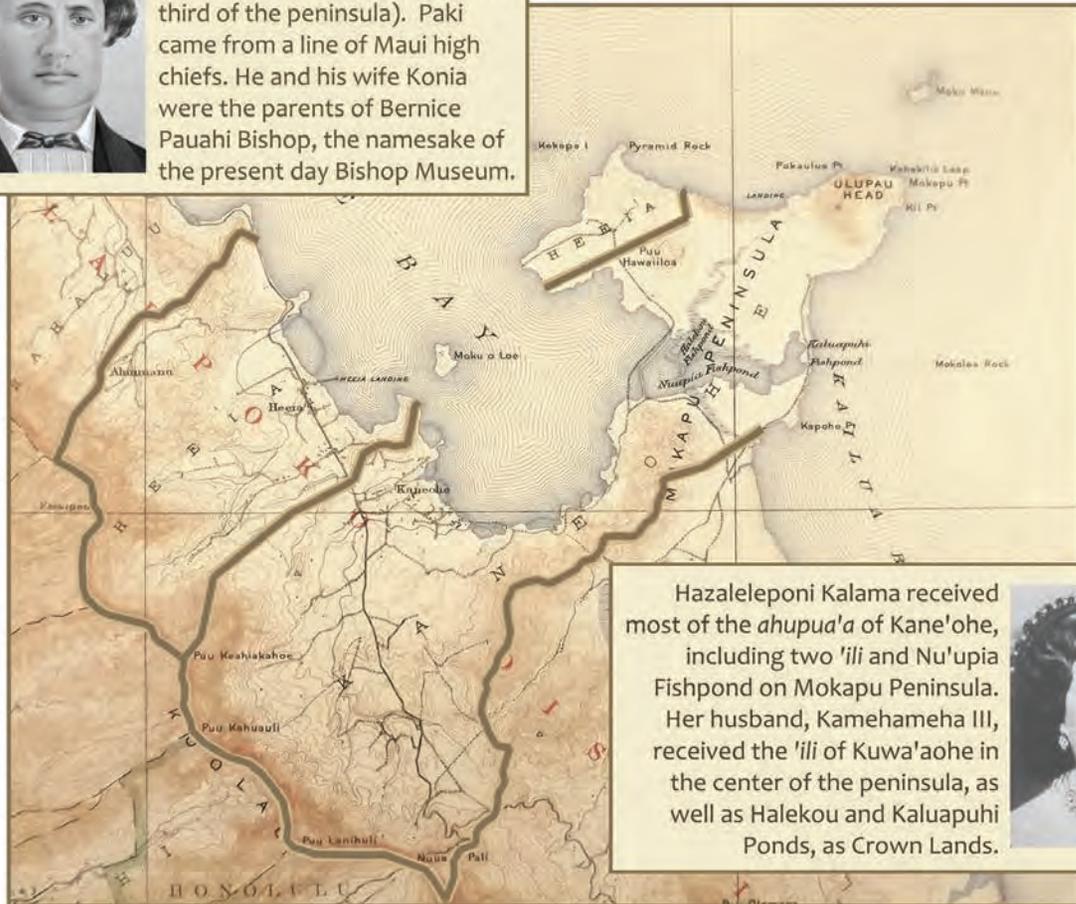
In the first decades after Western Contact, Honolulu was the nexus of interchange between Hawaiians and foreigners. On remote Mōkapu Peninsula, separated from the urban Honolulu milieu by the high, sheer Pali, life continued in the cycle of subsistence farming and fishing. However, changes in Hawaiian social, political, and religious life were on horizon, and these would not leave the peninsula untouched.

A fundamental event in the mid-1800s had a profound effect on Hawaiians. All lands were divided among the king (as Crown Lands), the high chiefs, and the government through a process called the Mahele, which bestowed fee simple title on land. On Mōkapu Peninsula, these changes were manifested in a division of the peninsula into three sections that were owned by two *ali'i* (chiefs) and the king, Kamehameha III.

Maka'āinana (commoners) were also given the opportunity to claim lands that they used. Over 25 individuals made claims for land on the peninsula, testifying that they were planting sweet potato and gourd, and growing pandanus trees; one claim was for *lo'i* (wetland taro field) in Ulupa'u *'ili*. Several claims were for *pa'akai* (salt), which could be a reference to the salt pans east of Kaluapuhi Pond. None of the claims were awarded, so the entire peninsula remained in the hands of the two *ali'i* and the Crown.



Abenera Paki received the *ahupua'a* of He'eia, including the *'ili* of Mokapu (the western third of the peninsula). Paki came from a line of Maui high chiefs. He and his wife Konia were the parents of Bernice Pauahi Bishop, the namesake of the present day Bishop Museum.



Hazaleponi Kalama received most of the *ahupua'a* of Kane'ohe, including two *'ili* and Nu'upia Fishpond on Mokapu Peninsula. Her husband, Kamehameha III, received the *'ili* of Kuwa'aohe in the center of the peninsula, as well as Halekou and Kaluapuhi Ponds, as Crown Lands.

He'eia and Kāne'ohe Ahupua'a.

Note that the pass across the Ko'olau Range at Nu'uaniu Pali falls within the southern corner of Kāne'ohe.

Prior to the Mahele, there are few accounts of the people of Mōkapu. However, there must have been a sufficiently sizeable community: a Catholic church was established on the peninsula in the late 1830s or early 1840s. According to the records of the Catholic diocese, the first baptismal ceremony at Mōkapu took place in 1841. In 1844, the stone edifice of St. Catherine's Church rose on the high ground of Keawanui on the western edge of Mōkapu (in the area now called Pali Kilo). It was constructed on a site that had been an ancient *heiau* (temple) dedicated to the Hawaiian gods Kū and Hina. St. Catherine's was abandoned in the late 1850s after plague and migration decimated the peninsula population. The church was moved to a location at He'eia across the bay. Church members, friends, and family carried coral stones and blocks by hand and canoe from the Mōkapu site to the new church, what is now St. Ann's Church.

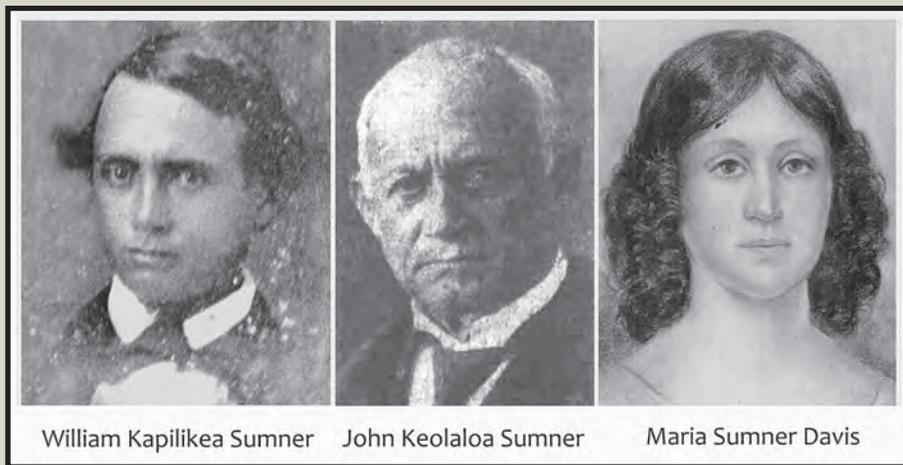
**Heiau at Mōkapu Point.
Photograph by
Eduard Arning, 1886.**

This photograph in the collections of the Hawaiian Historical Society is tied to Mōkapu Peninsula by only a hand-written caption in the margin: "Heiau at Mokapu Point, Oahu." If this is the heiau at Keawanui, which is the only known temple on the peninsula, then the pillar-like structures and mounded rock on the left side of the photograph could be remains of St. Catherine's Church.



Faces of Mōkapu: The Sumner Brothers and the 'Ili of Mōkapu

The Sumner brothers enter the Mōkapu story when the *ali'i* landholder, Abenera Pākī, died in 1855. For \$870, John and William Sumner bought the 'ili of Mōkapu. What they did with the land in the early years of ownership is not clear from historical records. In 1885, John Sumner became sole owner of the 'ili when his brother died, a victim of Hansen's disease. In 1892, John left Mōkapu in a trust to his nephew, Robert Wyllie Davis (the son of Sumner's younger sister Maria).



Origins of the Sumner Family in Hawai'i.

William and John were the older children of William Sumner and the high chief Keakuaaihue Kanealai Hua. The senior Sumner had come to Hawai'i as a young man in 1807, jumped ship on Kaua'i and was befriended by the ruling chief of the island, Kaumuali'i. Sumner participated in the negotiations that brought Kaua'i under the control of Kamehameha I and into the fold of the young Hawaiian kingdom. Sumner then entered the service of the Hawaiian king as a ship's captain, for which he was rewarded with gifts of land in Honolulu.

**JOHN K. SUMNER
FOUND DEAD IN
MOKAPU HOME**

**Picturesque Career of Kama-
aina. 94 Years Old. Is
Brought to Close**

John K. Sumner, born 94 years ago in Hawaii, the son of one of the first white immigrants to the islands, was found dead in his bed Saturday. Death was due to old age. Funeral services were conducted Saturday from the residence of R. W. Davis, a nephew, and interment was in a private plot at Mokapu.

Mr. Sumner's death occurred in the residence of his nephew, R. W. Davis, at Mokapu, where he had resided for many years.

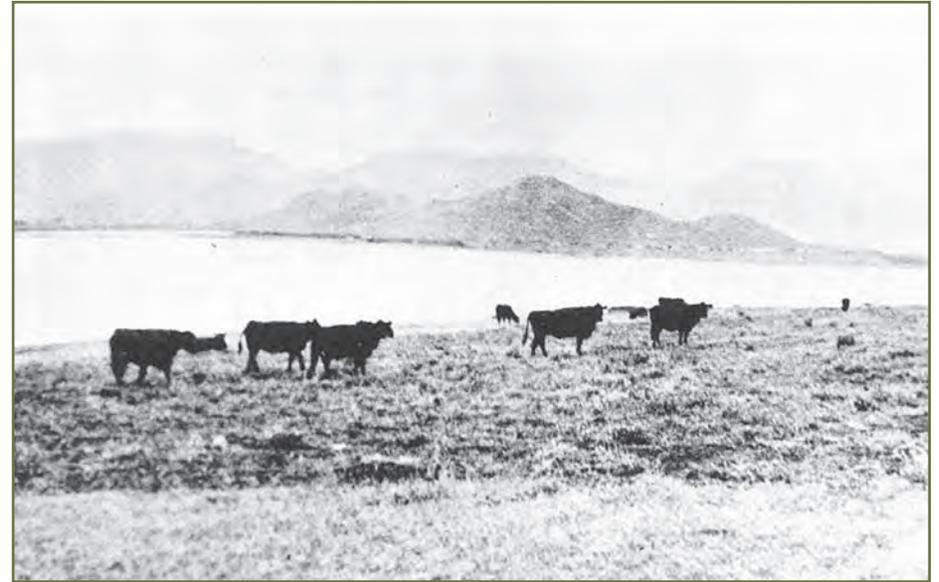
**Honolulu Star-Bulletin,
January 11, 1915.**

The sons of Sumner and Keahuaaihue were *ali'i* in the Hawaiian society of the 19th century. Both took high-ranking Tahitian women as their wives: the daughter (Manai'ula Tehuiari'i) and niece (Ninito Tera'iapo) of the Tahitian chief Tute Tehuiari'i, who had come to Hawai'i in 1849 as a Christian advisor to the Hawaiian royal court. John married Ninito and they divided their time between Hawai'i and Tahiti. Between 1883 and 1885, John served as Hawaiian consul to Tahiti. He also tried his hand at growing sea island cotton, and for a time, he and his nephew ran a business transporting Hawaiian cattle to Tahiti on the brig *Ninito*. John and Ninito moved back to Hawai'i in 1897, where Ninito died the following year. Although he had a house in Kalihi, John often stayed with his nephew at Mōkapu, especially in the last years of this life. John Sumner died at Mōkapu on January 9, 1915.

The Landscape in the Early 20th Century

The Mōkapu of the first decades of the 20th century was a landscape of small farms and cattle. Japanese truck farmers tended fields in almost all of the tillable land of the peninsula, including inside Ulupa‘u Crater. The main cattle operation was Kaneohe Ranch in the eastern portion of the peninsula; Robert Davis and later Arthur H. Rice, Sr., had their own smaller herds in the former *‘ili* of Mōkapu. Scattered wild lands were covered in *kiawe*, *hau*, and *haole koa* trees, and lantana and feral tomatoes were rampant.

In the late 1920s and through the 1930s, while cattle continued to graze on the Kaneohe Ranch lands of eastern Mōkapu, the face of the western peninsula changed. On the north and west sides of Halekou Fishpond, the Territorial government established a farm devoted to propagating exotic game birds. The *‘ili* of Mōkapu became the “Fisherman’s Paradise” of the Mokapu Tract Subdivision. In 1934, a Pan American radio facility rose on the top of the sand dunes east of Pyramid Rock.



Cattle on the Kāne‘ohe Bay shore, 1938.



Truck farm in the western peninsula, 1939.



Weekend home in Mokapu Tract Subdivision.

Faces of Mōkapu: Robert Wyllie Davis

Robert Wyllie Davis, better known as Wally (or Wallie), was the second generation of Sumners on Mōkapu. A long-time fixture of the peninsula landscape, “Old Man Davis” and his family lived in a two-story wood house that hugged the shoreline of Kāneʻohe Bay, in the area of the present Hangar 105. From this house, surrounded by coconut trees with a distinctive, large hau tree in the backyard, Davis played gracious host at gatherings for friends. The *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* of August 28, 1916, recorded the events of a weekend-long party at the Davis home, where guests included the mayor of Honolulu and Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaʻole Piʻikoi, *hānai* (adopted) son of one of the last monarchs of the Hawaiian kingdom:



Davis house at Mōkapu, 1920.



1943 aerial photograph of Hangar 105 and the last of the Davis coconut grove (at left side of photo).

At least 50 people were the guests of Davis between Saturday night and this morning. Several different parties drove up during the week-end, pitched their tents and made themselves at home. Davis is a genial host and saw to it that there was entertainment for all.

Saturday night there was torch fishing; eels, clubbed over the back with an iron bar; kumu, reserved for the table of the chiefs in the old days; squid, lobsters and a half dozen other varieties of fish filled the bags of the party when it returned.

Sunday morning everyone went to visit the fish gods, two pieces of white polished stone, and to bathe. More fish were caught, floral offerings were discovered scattered before the gods and the party returned to loaf the afternoon away. On the way home most of the party stopped to *hukilau*, “pull the leaf.” A monster haul was made and all went home with fish enough to last a week.

Honolulu Star-Bulletin, August 28, 1916

Wally is a well known part-Hawaiian who has long held sway over Mokapu. His establishment consists of several unpainted wooden native houses, far out on the wind swept flats.

Vaughn MacCaughey, visitor to Mōkapu, 1917

The Landscape of Ranching

On June 1, 1893, a terse statement “We commenced today doing business under the name of Kaneohe Ranch” opened the first ledger for the new Kaneohe Ranch. Two years later, the ranch was incorporated, with J.P. Mendonça and C. Bolte as the only shareholders. They started with a herd based on imported Angus cattle purchased from James I. Dowsett, one of the founders of the ranching industry in Hawai‘i. Horses, sheep, and goats rounded out the livestock assets. At its beginning, the ranch had a shepherd’s house and two windmills and tanks on the peninsula.

Mendonça, one of the most successful ranchers on the island, and his partner Bolte had been leasing the former Kāne‘ohe Ahupua‘a lands of Queen Kalama since at least 1890. Charles C. Harris, a justice in the Hawaiian Supreme Court, had bought Kalama’s land, fishponds, fishing rights, and livestock after she died in 1870. His daughter, Nannie Roberta Harris, inherited his estate in 1881. By 1905, however, Nannie had married David Rice and was living in Boston, Massachusetts, leaving the property with Kaneohe Ranch, which now included James B. Castle as a shareholder. In 1917, Castle’s son, Harold K.L. Castle, purchased the ranch and established the long-lived connection with Kāne‘ohe (as well as Kailua) that continues to the present.

On the western side of the peninsula, Wally Davis also ran cattle and horses. This operation was taken over by Arthur H. Rice, Sr., around 1915. Rice shipped cattle to the market in Honolulu: the cattle were driven into a corral on the edge of Kāne‘ohe Bay near Davis Point, then herded into the water and lifted into a market-bound steamer by pulleys. In later years, cattle were rounded up and herded across the Pali in a day-long drive.

Cowboys at Mōkapu.
Photograph by Eduard Arning, 1886.
Although there was no formal ranch company until 1895 when Kaneohe Ranch was incorporated, this 1886 photograph indicates a longer history of cattle ranching on Mōkapu Peninsula.

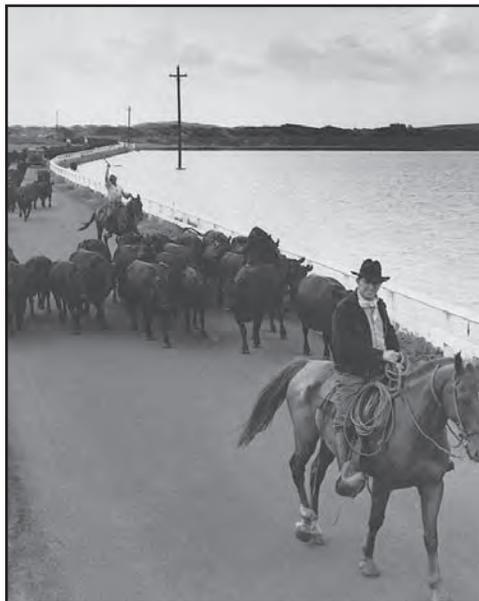




Kaneohe Ranch cattle went to market by way of the main ranch operations at Oneawa in Kailua. The peninsula was the winter grazing ground for the herd. Before summer set on, cowboys moved the herd to Coconut Grove (near the present 'Aikahi) and to Kawainui Marsh.

Ed Hedemann, long-time Hawai'i cowboy and a member of the Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council Paniolo Hall of Fame, started his career at age 12 at the side of his uncle Harold K.L. Castle. He describes the Mōkapu operations of Kaneohe Ranch around 1932:

His biggest breeding herd was in Mōkapu back in those days, ... At one time you could ride a horse from Mōkapu, in the shallow water where the fishponds were, you could ride all the way around to Kaneohe – in the water. That was kind of before my time. We could still do it when I was there as a young guy, but we didn't do it, there was no reason to. Before the ranch headquarters was in Kaneohe, and a lot of the cowboys lived in that area, so they would go over there on horseback. That was kind of like a shortcut, the ocean side.



Kaneohe Ranch round-up.

Herding cattle on the eastern side of the peninsula (the present Fort Hase Beach); Ulupa'u Crater is in the background. The cowboy in the white hat is ranch owner Harold K.L. Castle.

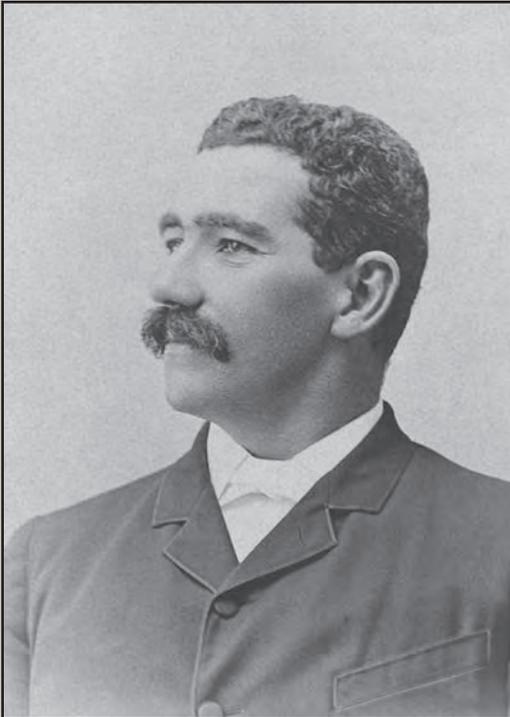
Cowboys and cattle on the causeway between Nu'upia and Kaluapuhi Ponds.

... We went all the way into Mōkapu and almost to the Marine Air Base side. We'd all spread out and drive those cattle and we'd get them all coming down the highway. We'd come down the roadway, the dirt roads and the sand roads, into the Oneawa holding pen.

... The following day the calves were separated from the mother cows and the branding of the calves began. We got all our horses saddled up prior to daybreak and started driving the cattle into the corrals just at first light. Many cowboys from neighboring ranches joined in the branding which really helped to speed things up.

Ed Hedemann, 2003

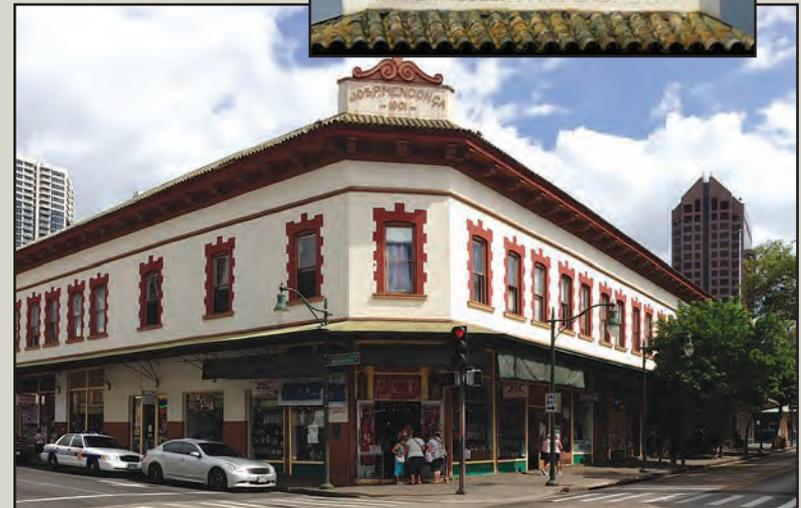
Faces of Mōkapu: Joseph P. Mendonça, a Ranch Founder



Joseph P. Mendonça in 1893.

Sixteen year-old Joseph Paul Mendonça came to Hawai'i in 1864 from the Azore Islands, 1,500 miles off the coast of Portugal. He initially earned his living as a mason and carpenter, but saw his future in other ways. He invested in Chinatown real estate (some parcels as narrow as six feet) and bought or leased large parcels of ranch land on the windward and north shores of the island. One of his leases was Mōkapu Peninsula, where he was a primary shareholder in the new Kaneohe Ranch Company, Limited, established in December 1895. Only four years later, however, it seems that Mendonça was ready for a change. The Kaneohe Ranch ledger entry for December 31, 1899 states that “Joe Mendonca is ‘pau ke aloha’ with Kaneohe, he wants to sell out or do something, he does not exactly know what; he has bought about 20 acres land in Kalihi and is now in town ... about 5 days every week.”

**Jos. P. Mendonça Building in
Chinatown, Honolulu.**



A major distraction for Mendonça was the Chinatown fire of 1900, which destroyed much of the downtown area. Mendonça was one of the first landowners to rebuild after the fire. He hired architect Oliver G. Traphagen to design his new building, sited on a block that consolidated many of his small landholdings. Traphagen was at the time working on the Moana Hotel, which was completed at the same time as the Jos. P. Mendonça Building in 1901.

The Landscape of Farming

The landscape of Mōkapu was always a farming landscape. In the first half of the 20th century, truck farms and commercial plantings replaced the traditional subsistence gardens of sweet potato, gourd, and possibly taro. One of the earliest commercial efforts was A.V. and Addie Gear's cotton plantation. With high hopes for this relatively new agri-business in Hawai'i, the Gears leased a half-interest in the 'ili of Mōkapu from Wally Davis, and planted the hardy Caravonica variety of cotton. A founding member of the Hawaiian Cotton Growers' Association (established in 1911), A.V. Gear wrote glowingly of his first crop:



From a report on commercial cotton in the *Hawaiian Gazette* of November 12, 1909.

One-year old Caravonica cotton plant.

Commercial cotton plantation at Kunia in central O'ahu.



Sunny South never had a better meaning than at Mokapu. Our plantation is out on a wide stretch of land near the seashore. The cotton does not require irrigation, but needs plenty of sun. We get it there and our trees have grown remarkably fast and the cotton bolls are big and luxuriant.

The cotton industry is the small farmer's opportunity. There never was a better opportunity for a small farmer to utilize forty acres than with cotton. He will derive a big profit and he does not have to wait years to get his returns. We have been in operation a year and here is our first shipment of a ton, and every month we will have a ton ready for shipment. The cost of shipment to New York is very small and the cost of bringing it over the pali to the shipping wharf is very small, too.

Strange as it may seem our cotton pickers are Hawaiian. ... We have three Hawaiian women and one Hawaiian man and a Korean couple. They receive so much per pound, and the women make about seventy cents a day, the men much more. They do the work well and it is an opportunity for Hawaiians in that district to get a little pin money.

It looks as if there will be steady picking, for as soon as we have picked one section and then work in another, the first section seems ready for picking again. ...

The important thing is that Hawaii, for the first time, is shipping cotton, the best quality, too, to the New York and New England cotton mills.

A.V. Gear, Hawaiian Gazette, December 10, 1910

But hard times for the Gears quickly followed. The couple fell into financial difficulties and their mortgage was foreclosed in 1912. The foreclosure auction disposed of a half-interest in 400 acres (including 35 acres under cultivation), 27 bales of cotton, a cotton gin, a press and baler, various livestock, farming implements, and cotton seed.



Farmers in the western peninsula, 1934.

The farmlots and farmers' names in the western peninsula are based on a 1934 City and County tax map. The road going through the middle of the lots (separating the four northern lots from the five southern ones) is roughly the alignment of the present Mōkapu Road crossing Runway 4/22.

Truck farmers on the peninsula had more long-lived success in their farming efforts. Watermelon thrived in the hot and sunny, loamy soil of the peninsula. Papaya, sweet potato, Irish potato, pumpkins, squash, and sweet corn were also grown.

Japanese names are most closely tied to peninsula farming. In the early 1920s, Kosaku Date was cultivating acres of corn in the flat lands south of Pu'u Hawai'i Loa for Arthur H. Rice, Sr. Just to the east, other Japanese farmers worked the plain north of Halekou Pond. Sekiji Uchibori, a bachelor named Yoshida, the Maruyama couple, and the Nomura and Kanazawa families formed a farming community in the eastern portion of the peninsula. Nomura and Kanazawa also farmed in western Mōkapu, as did the Yamauchis, the Tsudas, Tsukayamas, Satos, Yasudas, and Chinen. Thomas Tam and his family had a big watermelon patch in the western peninsula. The Iwasakis, who were Kosaku Date's parents-in-law, and the Daikokus were part of a smaller farm community at Ulupa'u Crater.

Some farmers lived on the peninsula; others lived in Kāne'ohe or Kailua. The Dates had a house at Davis Point. Farmer Sekiji Uchibori's house was located near the present Building 1089: as described by son Mitsuo, it was "where the present mess hall is, the 'grunt land' mess hall" where he delivered newspapers as a young boy.

Chinatown was the primary market for the Mōkapu farmers, who relied on a middle-man with a produce truck to transport crops across the Pali to town. Mitsuo Uchibori eventually bought his own truck and took over some of the business.

Mōkapu farmers made their mark on the island farm scene. The *Maui News* of June 21, 1918, reported that Mōkapu farmer N. Ewasaki won second place for “Best ten-pound any white variety” of Irish potatoes at the annual Maui County Fair, a not insignificant achievement in a competition in which most of the winning entries were from Maui.

The Division has received two lots of specially fattened Muscovy ducks from Mōkapu. They are selling readily to people who appreciate good poultry. The man who is raising these ducks is doing everything in his power to put an excellent article on the market, and he should have the patronage of all poultry buyers.

Maui News, 1915

Faces of Mōkapu: Arthur H. Rice, Sr., and Kosaku Date

Arthur H. Rice, Sr., and Kosaku Date were engaged in working the lands of the western peninsula. Arthur Rice was born on Kauaʻi in 1878, and came to Honolulu around 1912. Although primarily an investment broker, he was also a cattleman. From around 1915, he used a lease on the *ʻili* of Heleloa from Harold K.L. Castle and an arrangement with Wally Davis for the *ʻili* of Mōkapu to run cattle on the peninsula, as well as cultivate commercial crops. He also had pigs and horses. Rice lived in Oneawa at the north end of Kailua Bay. In addition to managing his ranch and farms on the peninsula, he often went to Mōkapu to follow his passion for fishing.

Kosaku Date began working for Arthur Rice in 1913, farming Rice’s Kailua lands, as well as working at his home. In 1921, the Date family moved to Mōkapu. Kosaku worked acres of corn fields with a mule-drawn plow on Rice’s land just south of Puʻu Hawaiʻi Loa. A hard-working entrepreneur, he had a lease on Nuʻupia Fishpond, although by most accounts, the water was too brackish for healthy fish. He also quarried and transported rock for construction; it is said that much of the stone forming Castle Hospital was supplied by Date from Mōkapu. Living and working on Mōkapu was a family affair: Kosaku’s parents-in-law had a farm in Ulupaʻu Crater, and his cousin was the cook and caretaker at Harold Castle’s beach house on Heleloa Dune.

**Arthur H. Rice, Sr.,
with his children Arthur, Jr., and
Harriet, and a 27-pound catch.**





Mōkapu Farm Scenes.
These photographs are part of series taken by the U.S. Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks, in a survey prior to development of Naval Air Station Kaneohe Bay in 1939. Note Pu'ū Hawai'i Loa in the background.





Farm fields around Pu'u Hawai'i Loa, 1939.

The road through the middle of the photograph is roughly the alignment of the present Mōkapu Road. Pu'u Hawai'i Loa is at the center right of the photograph; the present Runway 4/22 would run along the left side of the photograph.

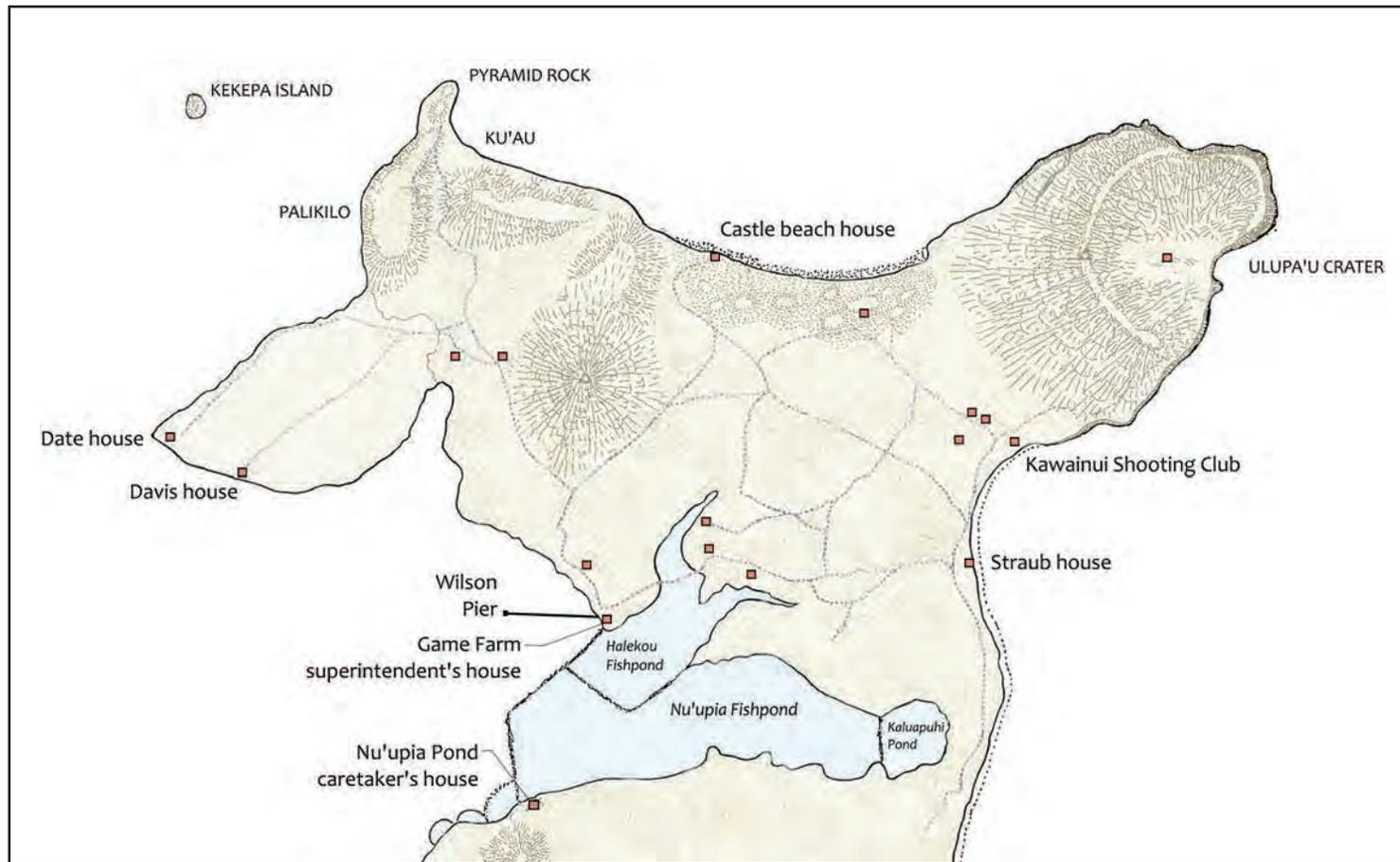


Farm fields south of Pu'u Hawai'i Loa, 1939.

The view looking southwest across Kāne'ohe Bay. The Nu'upia and Halekou Pond walls are at the center left of the photograph.

Living on the Peninsula: the 1920s

In the 1920s, the peninsula was a private holding with no access to the general public, and there were few permanent residents. Wally Davis and the Date family lived at Davis Point in southwestern Mōkapu. Some Japanese farmers had homes on the peninsula, but many lived in Kailua or Kāneʻohe and came to the peninsula only to work their fields. Harold Castle and his family spent weekends at their beach home on the north shore. Dr. George Straub and members of the Kawainui Shooting Club were periodic visitors to their places along the Kailua Bay frontage. The supervisor of the Territorial Game Farm had a residence at Halekou Fishpond.



Mōkapu in 1928.
The buildings (orange squares) and roads are taken from a 1928 USGS topographic map. The base map is by F.W. Thrum, 1892.

Getting There and Getting Around

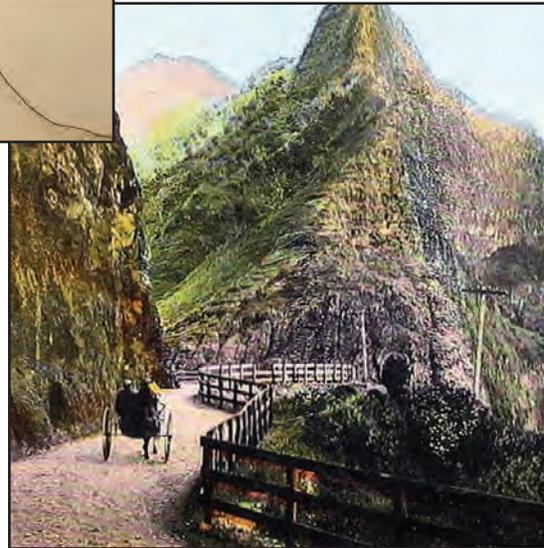
Today, coming on board MCB Hawaii Kaneohe Bay means zipping along a multi-lane asphalt pavement that obscures the undulations of the natural landscape of bay, ocean, and fishponds. One hundred years ago, people coming to the peninsula had to traverse a much different path. On the Kailua side, access was via a rough track that hugged the sandy beach. On the bay side, the direct route to Kāneʻohe (and the paved road to the Pali) meant crossing the Nuʻupia and Halekou Pond walls at low tide, a route marked on many maps of the time.



Portion of 1914 U.S. Geological Survey map of Oʻahu.

The red lines indicate unpaved roads; the green line at the left side of the map is the paved road from the Pali along the windward coast. The 1928 map on the facing page details roads on Mōkapu Peninsula.

Horse and buggy on the old Pali Road, 1910.



Typical horse and buggy.

We walked along the wall that separates the pond from the bay. This wall, like those of other fishponds, is four to six feet wide about eighteen inches above the water; its average total height is some five feet. It is made up of two laid stone walls. The central part between the walls is filled with earth and loose rubble. The path lies along the middle of the wall, and owing to inequalities in the settling and packing of the rubble, it is very irregular, with abrupt pits and knolls.

... We at last reached the landward end of the Hale-kou wall, dryshod and without broken bones, despite several tumbles.

Vaughn MacCaughey, 1917

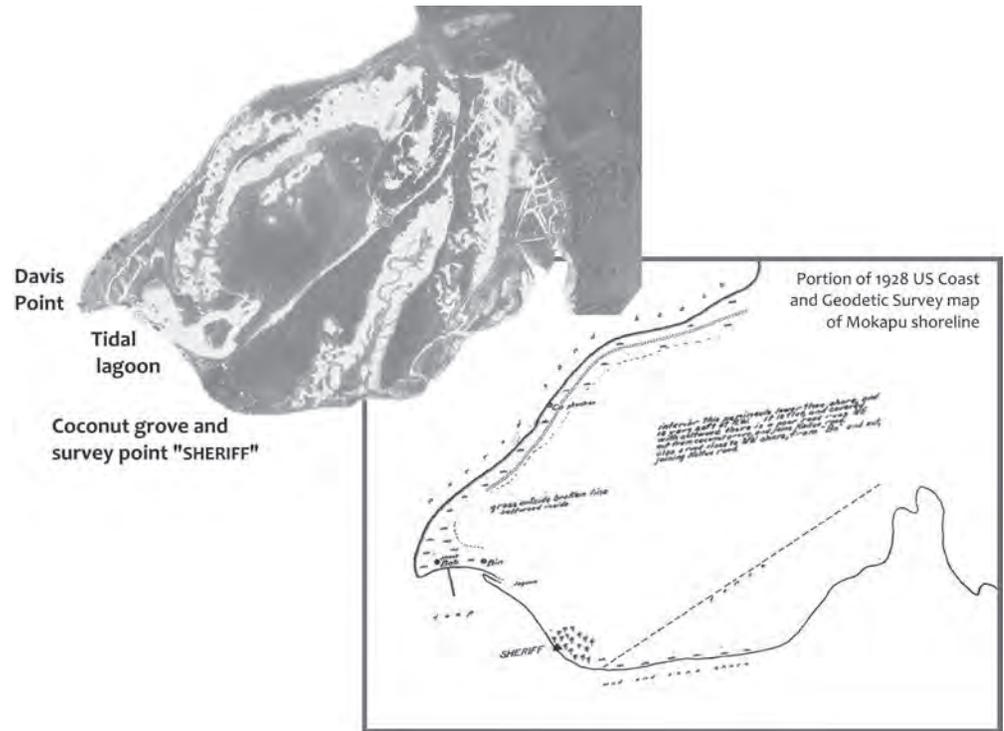
In a 1995 interview, Wally Davis' son, George, recalled the days before cars were common, when people would drive their horse and buggies across the pond walls. Kaneohe Ranch cowboys also used this route to get back and forth to the ranch headquarters (when it was located in Kāneʻohe town).

On the peninsula, getting around was by foot or horseback. Margaret Date, whose family lived at Davis Point, often walked to Ulupaʻu Crater to visit her grandparents, who were farming watermelons. If anyone went by car, there were numerous dirt tracks to follow.

Davis Point

Davis Point was a sandy island at the southwestern tip of Mōkapu Peninsula, separated from the rest of the peninsula by low-lying, *hau-*covered marshes and sand berms. In the early years of the century, Wally Davis and his uncle John K. Sumner had their home in a grove of coconut trees just east of the point. The grove was so distinctive that it was marked on a 1928 U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey map of the peninsula. Next door was the Kahulu family who were caretakers for Davis. At the point itself was the home of Kosaku and Hatsu Date and their two daughters, Margaret and Hamako. Between the Davis and Date homes was a shallow tidal lagoon. Margaret Date remembers her father building a boardwalk across the mouth of the lagoon so the family could visit with their neighbors.

A landmark of Davis Point was a pier that was built in the 1920s by three Honolulu businessmen who kept their pleasure boat, the *Manuīwa*, at Mōkapu. This may have been the origin of the Kaneohe Yacht and Boating Club, which was formed in 1924 during a period of rising interest and enthusiasm in competitive yachting in the islands.



Pier at Davis Point.

The pier was also used by Japanese *aku* (tuna) fishermen who caught bait fish (*nehu*) in the bay. The inter-island steamer sometimes stopped at the pier.



A Club on the Eastern Beach

At the north end of the eastern sand beach (the present Fort Hase Beach), where sand turns into a rocky shoreline, sat two small buildings partially enclosed by a wood fence. This was home to what was variously called the Mokapu Skeet Club, the Kawainui Fishing and Gun Club, the Kawainui Fishing Club, the Oahu Rifle and Pistol Club, and the Kawainui Shooting Club. Said by some to have been founded by the same men who berthed the *Manuīwa* at Davis Point, the exclusive club operated from the 1920s to the late 1930s. Once a year, the Territorial Game Farm released pheasants for the shooting pleasure of members of the club.

Kaneohe Ranch cowboys, with Kawainui Shooting Club buildings in background.



The Castle beach house from the top of Heleloa Dune, looking to the northwest.



The ocean side of the Castle house, looking west to Pyramid Rock.



Harold K.L. Castle, with friends.

The Castle Beach Home at Heleloa

Harold K.L. Castle, owner of Kaneohe Ranch since 1917, maintained a beach home on the ocean side of the high Heleloa Dune. The spacious weekend retreat had five bedrooms, a big living room, a kitchen pantry, and servant quarters. *Lanbala* (pandanus leaf) mats covered all the floors. A porticoed back step overlooked a manicured lawn that stretched toward the sand beach that was called Castle Beach by local residents.

Along with the family came horses and dogs. The peninsula was wide, open space for riding, and running room for some of the German Sheperds and Great Danes owned by Castle. Castle was a premier breeder and an active promoter of dog showing in Hawai'i; he was instrumental in gaining American Kennel Club approval of local championship shows.



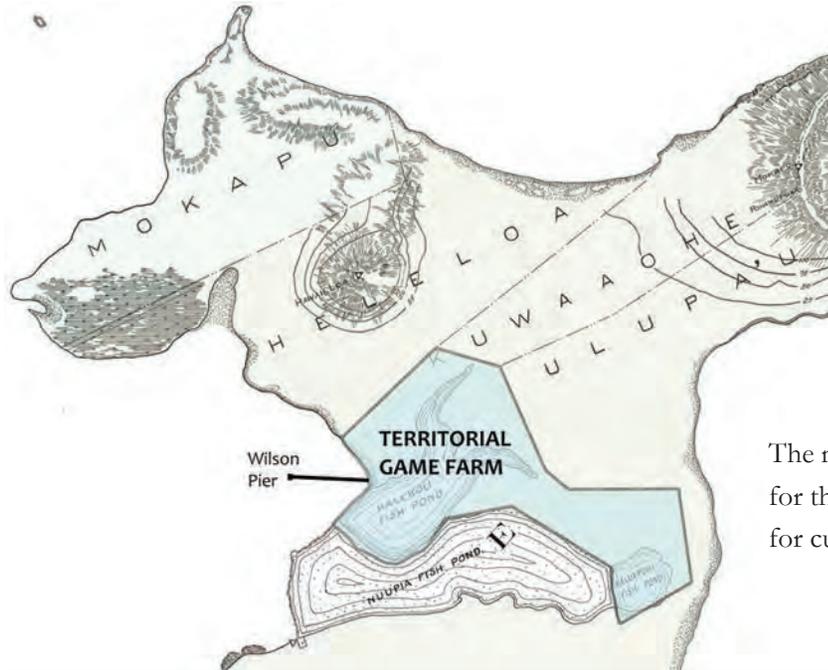
Dr. Straub's lot, marked by a fence of ironwood trees.

The Straub House

Just south of the Kawainui Shooting Club was the odd vacation house of Dr. George L. Straub. Founder of the present day Straub Clinic and Hospital, the doctor leased a small parcel facing Kailua Bay. There, he built a house of shipping containers placed on stilts. Whenever he wanted more space, he simply nailed on another crate and cut a hole for a door. He even added a second floor. The distinctive ironwood trees in the yard remain to this day.

The Territorial Game Farm

In 1921, the Territorial Governor executed Executive Order 112 to establish a game farm on 345 acres on the north side of the Mōkapu fishponds. Assigned to the Fish and Game Commission, its purpose was to produce and establish game birds throughout the territory, using imported exotic birds from stock raised in the U.S., Japan, Australia, the East Indies, and Africa for propagation. Birds raised at Mōkapu were released into the wild throughout the islands.



Wilson Pier, 1939, looking toward Kāneʻohe and Heʻeia. The pier was named after Game Farm manager I.H. Wilson.

The main operations of the Game Farm faced Kāneʻohe Bay. Facilities included a cottage for the superintendent, four large water storage tanks, 12 fenced acres, and four acres cleared for cultivation. Nests in the breeding pens were carefully built and monitored:

A special nest is built for the “mother by proxy” within the breeding pens. It is built of grasses on a foundation of lime and tobacco leaves which keeps insects and mites away. Once every 24 hours the hen is taken off the nest for 20 minutes during which the eggs are allowed to air and are later sprinkled with water to prevent the shells from becoming hard.

The Game Farm was a great success. Between 1921 and 1928, 1,200 Mongolian pheasants were hatched. In the 1930s, over 40,000 game birds were raised and released. At the end of the decade, over 60,000 birds had been released to six different islands, with 18,409 birds still at the farm in early 1941.

Territorial Game Farm, 1942, view to the east.

The superintendent’s house and Wilson Pier are in the center of the photo. The feeding pens in Halekou Pond are to the right; the brooder house and bird pens are to the left.





Guinea hens in an outdoor pen.

A notable exception to the exotic birds raised at the Game Farm was the Hawaiian *nēnē*, a native species whose population had been all but extinguished. In 1928, the Game Farm acquired two pairs of *nēnē* from Herbert Shipman and Leighton Hind, who were raising them on the island of Hawai'i. From these pairs, the population grew to 42 by 1940, with birds released to several islands.

In addition to game birds, the Game Farm also conducted experiments in the various phases of fish culture, using Halekou and Kaluapuhi Fishponds. Between 1921 and 1927, six feeding pens, each measuring a quarter of an acre, were built into portions of the Halekou Pond wall, with mullet in three of the pens being fed cooked sweet potatoes, and mullet in the other three pens relying on available natural food. At least three more feeding pens were added in 1934.

The Game Farm and fisheries came to an end with the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941. Sadly, nearly 15,000 birds were killed when cages and pens were destroyed by the bombing and strafing. The Game Farm was officially closed in March 1942, and its lands were transferred to the U.S. Navy.

Faces of Mōkapu: Frank M. Locey

In 1937, the president of the Territorial Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry, Frank M. Locey, expressed his vision of the Game Farm program:

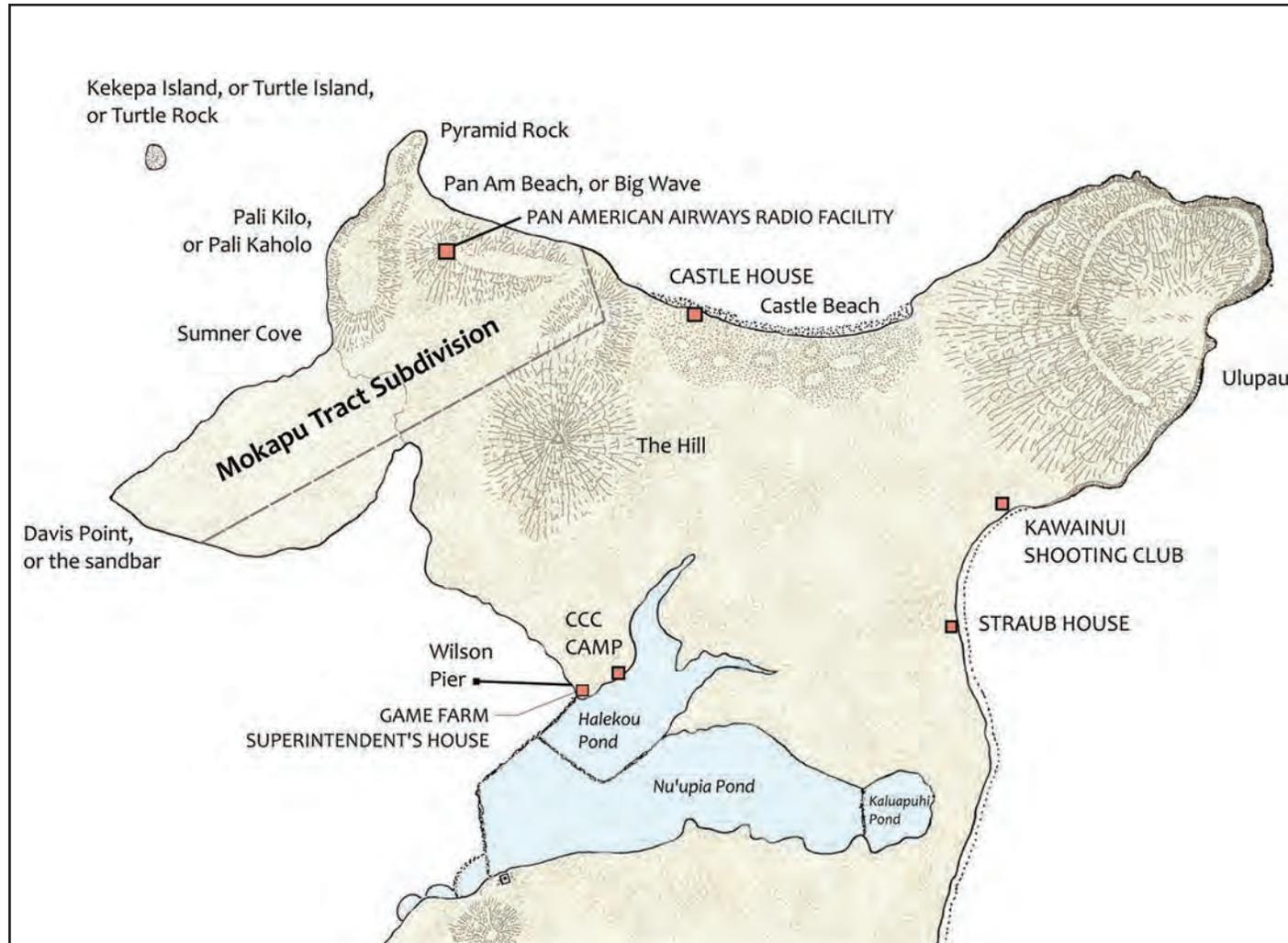
Hawaii can be transformed into a universal aviary, a bird haven where every known species of birds, not injurious to Hawaii, will propagate and thrive under the conditions of their natural habitats. Some day Hawaii will be one grand bird preserve or reservation. We will have here every bird known to the world that will live here to our advantage—and this includes all desirable birds whether game or other birds that beautify our Nature by song or plumage. [When] that time comes it will not be necessary for people to visit any other part of the world to enjoy or study birds for most of the birds will be living in Hawaii under natural conditions. Hawaii will be one vast Bird Park. “Go to Hawaii to see Birds!” will be the popular slogan.

Frank M. Locey at the Game Farm.



Living on the Peninsula: the 1930s

The 1930s was a decade of change on the peninsula. Although cattle still grazed and farmers still cultivated in the eastern peninsula, the Mokapu Tract Subdivision changed the face of the west. What had once been an isolated outpost for truck farmers, Kaneohe Ranch cowboys, and the Davis family became a vacation retreat for well-to-do city dwellers, and brought new possibilities for middle-class families looking for a chance to own land in the country.



Mōkapu Places and Place Names

New residents on the peninsula, unfamiliar with earlier names for places, gave new names based on local associations. Based on its off-shore profile, Kekepa Island became Turtle, or Turtle Back, Island. Kū'au became Pan Am Beach, or Big Wave, to ocean-loving teenagers. Pu'u Hawai'i Loa was known simply as "The Hill."

Getting There and Getting Around

In the 1930s, development on Mōkapu meant more people were coming to the peninsula. More people meant there was a need for better access. On the west side of the peninsula, the route along the Nu‘upia-Halekou Pond walls fell into disuse, possibly because of the Territorial Game Farm. On the east side of the peninsula, the dirt track along the shoreline was no longer adequate to carry the full load of old and new residents. In 1934, the Territory of Hawai‘i laid out a new, improved, and more direct route that followed the wall between Nu‘upia and Kaluapuhi Ponds.



Cattle drive on the new Mōkapu Road.

In spite of government efforts, the roads on the peninsula were still rugged. Peter Nottage, whose family had a summer home in Kailua, remembers coming to the peninsula, where the flat area east and southeast of Pu‘u Hawai‘i Loa was the “kind of adobe that cracked open when it got dry and swollen when it got wet. It was dusty when the cattle went across it and it was slimy mud when it rained. It was pretty bad.”

Dad always carried chains with him in case we got caught. ... Somewhere along the line we started picking up dirt ... We never had *pilikia* [trouble] with sand or coral in bad weather. But I know that when we hit the smaller portions of the roads, Dad had to stop and put his chains on because otherwise, we’d get stuck, so we’d be able to go through.

**Aaron Chaney, 1995,
the Chaney family had a beachfront lot at Pali Kilo**

On the western side of the peninsula, some residents used a more direct route between Mōkapu and Kāne‘ohe. Joseph Haia, whose family bought a parcel in the Mokapu Tract Subdivision when he was around 14, was a good friend of Wally Davis’ son, George. The two young men would go by boat to Kāne‘ohe to see the movies:

George Davis and I used to go from Mōkapu here [pointing to Davis Point] to Kāne‘ohe here, to go to the movies. We didn’t have any lights here. We would go around... Coconut Island. We’d come in... between the reefs. ... Once we got past this reef, we got all the way down inside here [Waikalua side]. Right where this fishpond is, we’d head for this corner right here. Land in there and then we’d walk all the way to Kāne‘ohe [town].

But before we start off, we leave a lantern on the pier; time for go home, you know sight one side and the light was there. We would go so long and then cut back and we go around... right at the end of Davis Point, there was a pier there, where we’d head for.

A Subdivided Landscape: the Fishermen's Paradise of the Mōkapu Tract Subdivision

In the early 1930s, the open space of ranching and farming in western Mōkapu was carved into a neat array of rectangular lots. A partnership of Samuel Wilder King, Bishop Trust Co., Ltd., and A.H. Rice & Co., Ltd., subdivided the *ʻili* of Mōkapu into parcels ranging from a quarter acre to just over a full acre. Prices ranged from \$1,200 to \$3,000 for beach lots and \$500 to \$900 for inland parcels. Initially, the Davis homestead was retained on around 10 acres, but eventually, it too was subdivided. In the same way, larger farm acreage was offered for lease but was also later split up into fee simple parcels. By the end of the decade, there were over 350 lots.

A network of roads commemorated the Sumner family. Keolaloa Road (after John Keolaloa Sumner) entered the subdivision at a gate through the Mōkapu-Heleloa boundary fence and ran northwest to Pyramid Rock. Kapilikea Road (after William Kapilikea Sumner) ran from the entry gate north to Ellis Road (the married name of William's daughter Nancy). Davis Road (after Maria Sumner's side of the family) paralleled the Mōkapu-Heleloa *ʻili* boundary, connecting the south bay shore with the entry gate. Sumner Road edged the west shoreline.

Friends and families bought shoreline parcels to share in weekend and vacation retreats. Albert Kainoa Makinney and his sister Pearl Chaney bought nearby lots, and were joined by friends like the Clarks, Williams, and Whites. Tillie Brandt Hughes and George Brandt, who had lots close to Pyramid Rock, were also part of the extended family. Pearl's husband, Aaron S. Chaney, was a Territorial surveyor like T.J.K. Evans, who bought a parcel two lots away from the Chaney's.

Sales brochure for Mōkapu Tract Subdivision, 1934. "Every lot owner has access to both the ocean and the bay, making available to them the surf bathing on the wide sandy ocean side or the swimming in the still waters behind the reef, and the boating in Kaneohe Bay."

MOKAPU

The Fisherman's Paradise

The *ʻili* of Mōkapu lies at the western end of the peninsula sometimes designated by the same name, although comprising six different lands. The property faces both on the ocean and on Kaneohe Bay, having nearly three miles of water frontage. It contains over 100 acres of land in all, of considerable variety, with high sand dunes on the ocean, with sand along a portion of the bay frontage, and a flat sandy plain extending into the bay. A private sewerage system is an appurtenance to the land, in which lot owners are given the privilege of fishing for personal use. The property is covered by a registered title under the Torrens system, issued by the Land Court of the Territory.

To get there, go to Kailua, then through Kailua to the junction of Kailua Avenue and Kaneohe Bay Drive, which is the present end of the paved road. The Mōkapu Road branches off to the right at this point and traverses the peninsula. It is a government right-of-way to the western boundary of the Fish and Game Ferns. Across the intervening land of Heleloa, Mōkapu has an easement or right of passage. The whole of Mōkapu however is private property. Its roads and easements are open only to lot owners and friends, and its beaches and sea bays reserved for their use. Every lot owner has access to both the ocean and the bay, making available to them the surf bathing on the wide sandy ocean side or the swimming in the still waters behind the reef, and the boating in Kaneohe Bay.

For on the market in 1932, Mōkapu has met with exceptional success. A considerable number of lots have been sold, many houses have been built and many more are going up. Water is available to every lot as a part of the same government system that supplies Kailua and Kaneohe, but there is no electricity or telephone as yet.

Beach lots are offered for sale from \$1,000.00 and up; and second tier lots with rights of way to the beach, for \$500.00 and up. A down payment of 10% of the purchase price is required, but may be made in down payments. Monthly installments of 1% of the purchase price are payable on an Agreement of Sale over a ten year period. These installments include interest at the rate of 6% per annum on monthly balances. The terms of the Agreement of Sale was determined in order to permit the balance of the purchase price to be paid up in full by the regular installments, provided no delinquencies occur. The current year's taxes are paid by the seller, together with all expenses for drawing papers, only the recording fee being paid by the buyer. For those who are able to pay cash, a discount of 10% of the purchase price is given. There are no building restrictions, and no residential restrictions after the lot has been paid for in full.

SALES AGENTS
SAMUEL WILDER KING
221 South King Street Phone 2814
BISHOP TRUST CO., LTD. A. H. RICE & CO., LTD.

MAY 15, 1934.

My family went to Mōkapu in the early '30s ... My mother [Helen Poepoe-White] and Flora Hayes were classmates from Kamehameha [School] and have been friends for many years, and so they were friends of Sam King and he told them about Mōkapu. So I guess Flora more than anyone convinced Mother she better join her too, so they each got a lot over there near Pyramid Rock.

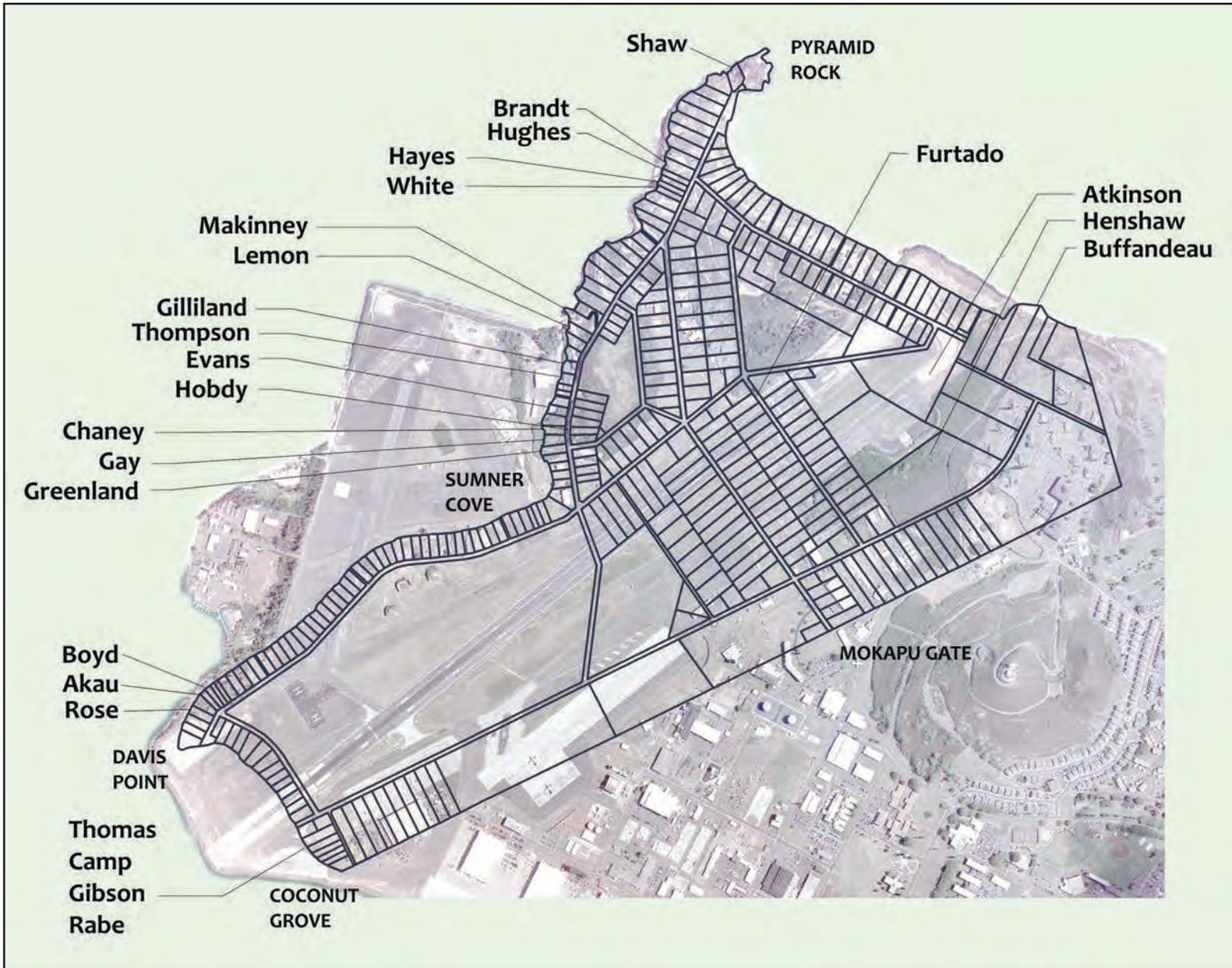
Lucia White-Whitmarsh, 1995

Pua Greenland and her brother Lawrence Gay had adjacent lots at Sumner Cove. Helen White and Flora Hayes were friends of the sales agent, Samuel W. King, and bought next-door parcels near Pyramid Rock. James Lemon, Charles Rose, and Frank Gilliland were connected to Wally Davis and each other by the law enforcement profession, which at the time was an elected position: Davis served as deputy sheriff under Rose, who was the sheriff of Ko'olaupoko; Lemon was also a deputy sheriff; and Frank Gilliland's father, Richard, was the sheriff of Wai'anae.

Like the shoreline lots, some of the inland parcels were purchased by well-to-do families: Alice Atkinson and Rose Henshaw, who were descendants of James Makee, owner of Maui's Rose Ranch (the precursor to present day Ulupalakua Ranch), purchased over 10 parcels totaling almost 50 acres south of He'eia Dune. The less expensive inland parcels, however, were also attractive to working class families looking for a life outside of the urban crush of Honolulu, where they could have small farms and gardens, and ready access to the ocean for fishing.



Western Mōkapu, 1942, looking to the south. He'eia Dune and Pyramid Rock are in the foreground; Sumner Cove is at the top-center of the photograph.



Overlay of the Mokapu Tract Subdivision, based on cancelled City and County of Honolulu tax maps, on a current aerial photograph of Mōkapu Peninsula. The names refer to lot owners and families that are mentioned in the text.

Work all week, and then Friday. And while you're working, you're preparing your stuff to pack and go, you know. Soon as I come home from work, bang, we're in the car, we're gone. That was practically every weekend.

*Jack Williams, 1995,
a teenager when his parents
bought a shorefront lot at Pali Kilo*



Houses at Pyramid Rock.

At the north end of the western coastline, Ruth Shaw was an early buyer of a place in the subdivision.

It was really neat because we had those old Army tents, you know, with the pole in the middle. And one tent, two tents would be for the bedroom, all the beds and stuff. Then we had another big tent where mama did all the cooking and then—the outhouse was way away from it.

Gradually, families improved their lots. With help of friends, James Lemon hand-cleared a boat basin in front of his beach home. They moved the big rocks out of what was originally 3 to 4 foot deep water, and built a ramp so they could bring in their 12 to 14 foot fishing boats. A few lots south, Pearl Makinney Chaney was an avid gardener who loved

the two old *milo* trees on the property, and labored at landscaping the rocky lot. Her son, Aaron Chaney, remembers:

She brought in whatever she could. I remember she desperately tried to get *hau* to cover the big rock outcropping we had on the property. And we had a hell of a time. It just wouldn't take because it wasn't watered there frequently to keep it, dampen it. Tried very hard but she had everything else there.



New houses in the coconut grove.

The Davis homestead was subdivided, and became country places for neighbors Rolla Thomas, Herbert Camp, Frank Gibson, and Eric Rabe.

With the influx of people to the peninsula, it was inevitable that someone would see a need and fill it. That someone was Clyde Hopkins, who operated the Mokapu Store in the 1930s. He carried basic groceries that Lucia White-Whitmarsh remembers as “mostly corned beef, canned salmon, just very simple, you know Hawaiian stuff that you just eat with poi.”



Aerial views of Mokapu Tract Subdivision, 1934 to 1940.

Left: The southern portion of the subdivision, looking southwest. The road on the left of the photograph is Davis Road; the road along the shoreline on the right is Sumner Road (which still exists west of Runway 4/22). Keolaola Road (the present Mōkapu Road) goes left to right across the center of the photograph.

Below: Pali Kilo, looking southeast. Runway 4/22 now crosses the top of the photograph. The triangle of roads around Pali Kilo includes the present Mōkapu Road (left), Sumner Road (right), and Pali Kilo Road (bottom).

Below left: Pyramid Rock, looking south.

I remember the store because I remember we used to have to buy our groceries in Kailua until the store got there. And I know my dad wanted to patronize the store ‘cause he wanted it to stay open, he wanted it to make money. He wanted them there because it was a good convenience, because if we ran short somebody had to go all the way to Kailua to get it.

Aaron Chaney, 1995



Faces of Mōkapu: The Sumner Family, Generation Three and Beyond

The Sumner family continued to participate in life on Mōkapu, in a variety of ways, in the 1930s. Wally Davis' nephew, Samuel Wilder King, was the primary sales agent for the Mokapu Tract Subdivision. Davis' son, George, lived at Davis Point until the homestead was subdivided and then moved to the Pali Kilo shorefront. The Buffandeau brothers, Eugene and Leighton, bought a cluster of large subdivision parcels along Ellis Road, which was named after their grandmother, Nancy Wahinekapu Sumner Ellis, William K. Sumner's only daughter.

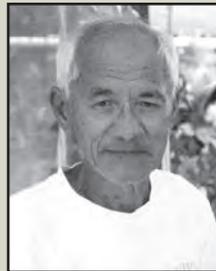


Samuel W. King, 1939

Samuel W. King was born in 1886, a grandson of Robert Grimes and Maria Sumner Davis through their daughter Charlotte (Wally Davis' sister). Samuel King was a successful businessman and politician. He was a Territorial delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives from 1935 to 1943, and in 1953, he became the eleventh Territorial Governor of Hawai'i, the first Native Hawaiian to hold that office. He is the namesake of Samuel Wilder King Intermediate School in Kāne'ohe.

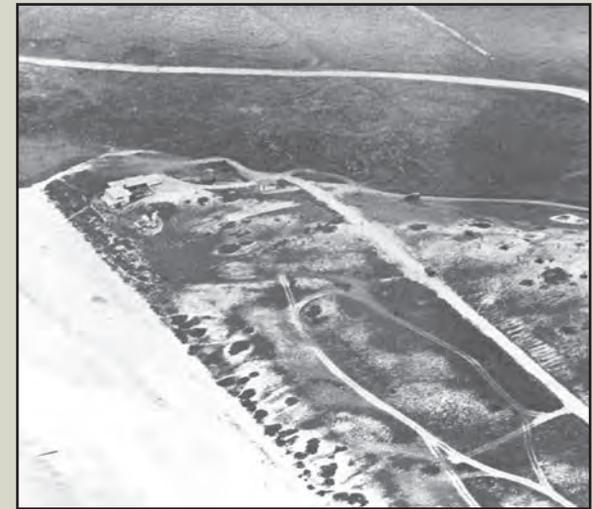
George Davis was the *keiki hānai* (adopted son) of Wally Davis and his wife Kealohanui. Born in Kona in 1912, George came to Mōkapu as a young boy and was part of the third Sumner generation on the peninsula. He witnessed the changes of landscape from ranching and farming to subdivision development. George worked on the Marine Corps base as a civilian until he retired.

In 1941, George married Mary Furtado, who came to Mōkapu in the 1930s when she was around 10 years old. Her parents, Antone and Isabel, had purchased one of the interior parcels in the Mokapu Tract Subdivision.



George Davis and Mary Furtado-Davis.

These photographs were taken in 1995 when George and Mary participated in an MCB Hawaii oral history project.



A Buffandeau beach house?

This lonely house was located at the east end of He'eia Dune (roughly where the present Runway 4/22 hits the north shore of the peninsula). Based on tax maps from the late 1930s, the house may have belonged to Leighton or Eugene Buffandeau, great-grandsons of William K. Sumner.

Children's View of Life on Mōkapu

Mōkapu was adventure for the children of farmers, landowners, and weekenders. Access to the peninsula was controlled by a system of fences and locked gates through which only residents and guests could pass. Parents had a sense of security, and young ones had no restraints. Looking back at their “small kid time,” adults now in their 70s, 80s, and 90s think of Mōkapu with memories of fondness and freedom.



On getting there:

Well, the way you could go to Mōkapu we went down, we took the old gate. ... You know where Aikahi Park goes into the base that was the original road we went into. We went straight down there and everything that we went on was ponds, pond left, pond right, pond left, pond right, go, go, go, get close to the mountain turn left, follow the dirt road far, go, go, go, so as you get past the last mountain turn right. And you were on dirt roads and you go straight back and that's where the homes were and you had electric power at the time. *Leroy Gilliland, 2013 – the Gilliland family had a shorefront house at Pali Kilo*

On fishing:

There are times when my grandfather used to take me along with him to fish where he had a long reel pole to cast out in the waters there. This was more along the [Fort Hase] beach area as you walk down towards the fish ponds. When family members would come over, we'd wake up early in the morning to see the sun rise, coming from the eastern part of Kailua Bay. So those are some of the earliest memories I have about this place. *Charles “Doc” Burrows, 2013 – Doc’s grandfather, Charles Kekuewa, was the gatekeeper for Kaneohe Ranch*

On watersnakes and mud:

Sumner Cove was relatively calm but as you progressed up to Pyramid Rock the water and cliff areas were treacherous so we had to abide by the rules set down by our folks that we were not to go in that direction. We did all of our excursions and playing further south to the pier and Davis Point. ...

When we were kids over here [near the pier], there were a lot of watersnakes and this was all muddy. If you disturbed the bottom it was very soft, with silt bottoms. This area from Davis Point to Sumner Cove, at low tide you could walk out three quarters of a mile from the shore line to the water...walking out toward Kekepa Island from Sumner Cove. This was all mud. *Henry Thompson, 1981 – Henry’s family visited his uncle Jimmy Lemon at his house on Pali Kilo*

On Arthur Rice:

Arthur Hyde Rice ... oh he was really, really nice, nice to us. We were just kids but, I know he would take us out in his car when he’d go over there, throw net, catch fish, and on the way coming back, he’d be picking us up, we’re riding or walking on the road, you know. Just for a short while but just because being nice to us give us a couple of moi. *Mitsuo Uchibori, 1995 – the Uchiboris had a farm in eastern Mōkapu*

On loli (sea cucumber) as squirt guns:

They did eat loli and I ate some too, but I never cared for it you know. But we had more fun just playing squirt gun. All the kids would fight with the water. We didn’t have water pistols, we used loli. *Lucia White-Whitmarsh, 1995*

On playing Tarzan and Robin Hood:

Next to our lot [near Davis Point] before you got to the market [at the Mōkapu gate], there were these huge, huge hau trees, all big hau trees and as kids we used to call that our forest. We used to go in there, you could go for all over the creation without even touching the ground. Because you know how the hau grows and it was, you know, talk about Tarzan and Robin Hood or whatever. Oh, as kids we used to go in there and smoke. We were terrible, but anyway we had big tree houses and you know growing up. *Kina’u Boyd Kamali’i, 1981 – the Boyd family had a house near Davis Point*

On mud and cars:

This all over here used to be swamp. And when I say swamp it was a lot of water and stuff and when it rained the water was all hanging. What the people would do with their cars is go run up and down the swamp and slide, jam on the brakes and you’d just slide in the mud all the way around inside here. That was their recreation with the car, and in those days you had Model T and Model A Fords is what they used. The older kids did it... I didn’t ‘cause I didn’t drive. *Leroy Gilliland, 2013*

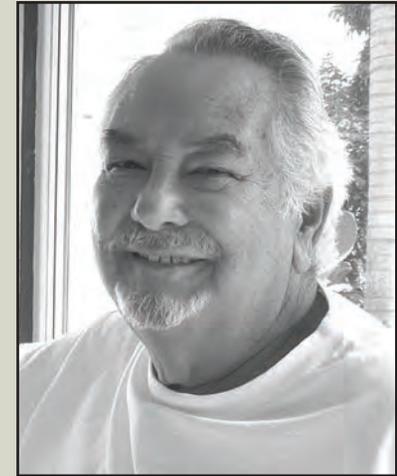
On going home:

In those days we... did a lot of card “Come Out” playing, which is like Trumps. Lot of card playing, listening to the radio, talk story. Listen to *The Shadow* – that was a big deal. In fact, when we would go home [to Kaimuki] at night we would plan it so that the program is pau before we would go home. Otherwise, you’d be driving up the Pali and we didn’t want to miss the program so we’d wait until it was pau, then we’d go home; when it’s like on Sunday evening to come home. *Leroy Gilliland, 2013*

Faces of Mōkapu: Leroy Gilliland

Leroy Gilliland was born in 1933. His family was from Wai‘anae, where they owned 250 acres next door to neighbors, the Lemon family. Leroy’s grandfather, Richard Gilliland, was a sheriff of the district in the 1910s. In 1934, Leroy’s father, Frank C. Gilliland, bought a shorefront parcel in the Mokapu Tract Subdivision, four lots south of James Lemon. Like many Mōkapu lot owners, other family members were nearby: Leroy’s uncle, Henry Copp, had a parcel across Pali Kilo Road from the Gilliland’s place:

The lots themselves from the road down, was on a slope, fairly decent slope. ... The garage was on the top, a great big two car garage, then the house was below it, and below the house was a big stone wall [that] faced the ocean, which was built up because the lots sloped, the rock wall was built up so it was higher. That where the front of the house was, and then the beach. Our lot didn’t have much sand in front of the house, the beach itself didn’t have much sand, but we ended up making a small boat ramp in front of the house, we had a reef boat and later on my Uncle Henry brought down his canoe.



Leroy spent many weekends and vacations at Mōkapu, depending on the schedules of his school teacher mother and his railroad worker father. As he puts it:

We would go down there. We’d spend a lot of weekends down there because it was a different lifestyle in those years. We had no TV at home to go watch, so come weekend, bang, off we’d go [to Mōkapu]. And we knew most of the people, the Boyds were down here, we knew all these other people, the Holts, so we would go down there, that’s where everybody was. You know, they’d spend the time down there.

Faces of Mōkapu: Charles “Doc” Pe‘ape‘amakawalu Kekuewa Burrows



Charles Pe‘ape‘amakawalu Kekuewa Burrows was born in 1933, and was *bānai*-ed [adopted] by his grandparents, Charles and Caroline Kekuewa. Around 1937, Harold K.L. Castle hired Charles Kekuewa as a caretaker/gatekeeper at Mōkapu. Kekuewa and his family lived in a green-painted beach cottage near the present Fort Hase Beach.

“Doc” remembers his childhood home:

As I remember, when I was young, the kitchen window opened out towards the area where you could see part of the beginning of Kailua Beach at that end of Mōkapu and towards the small islet, the Mokulua. Right at the edge was a small little reef where I used to swim as a young child. In the back rooms was probably a bigger type of living room and also maybe a bedroom or two. In the big type of living room was where, when families came, they all slept. In those days, there was no kitchen, a kerosene stove was used for cooking. Outdoors there was also a cooking shed where grilling or barbequing type of cooking would take place using a good fire. My earliest remembrance of that area was when my grandfather would take *kukui* nuts to roast there and then crack them open to make *‘inamona* [relish made of *kukui* nut meat mashed with salt].

Pan American Airways Radio Facility

In 1934, a radio facility was built by Pan American Airways on the crest of He'eia Dune, roughly between Pyramid Rock and the north end of the present Runway 4/22. It was used as a link for Pan Am trans-Pacific flights, which started in 1935. Former Mōkapu residents recall that the Kāne'ohe Bay side of the peninsula was even considered as a landing site for the flights, but negotiating the turn within the Ko'olau Range proved too great a challenge for the planes.

Moses Haia worked on the construction of the radio facility and so fell in love with Mōkapu that he bought a parcel in the Mokapu Tract Subdivision as soon as one became available. The Haia family moved from Pālolo Valley behind Kaimukī to a place at Sumner Cove. William Hobdy, one of the managers of the radio facility, also purchased a house lot in the subdivision.

Historian Muriel Seto suggests that the *hula ku'i* song "Kāne'ohe," which ostensibly honors the installation of electricity at Kāne'ohe in the 1930s, may actually be related to Mōkapu, and to the Pan Am Radio Facility specifically. *Hula ku'i* is an interpretive hula style that became popular during the time of King Kalākaua.

Towers of the Pan Am Radio Facility, view to southeast from near Pyramid Rock.

Local residents called the beach in the foreground "Pan Am Beach." Pu'u Hawai'i Loa is at the left of the photograph.

ON RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

*Kāne'ohe
Olapa ka uila i Kāne'ohe
Ka hui laulima o i lani wai.*

Kāne'ohe
The electricity flashes in Kāne'ohe
(because of) the cooperative association.

*Hui:
Me ka ua a Puakea
Ka la'i o Malulani
Me ke anu o ke Ko'olau.
Ho'okahi mea hou ma He'eia
Ka uwea kekekalapa leo nabenabe.
Ha'ina ia mai ana ka puana
Ua 'a ka uila a'i Kāne'ohe.*

Chorus:
And the rain of Puakea
The calm of Malulani
And the cliff of the Ko'olau Range
There's something new at He'eia
The soft-voiced telegraph wire.
The story is told
How electricity burned in Kāne'ohe.

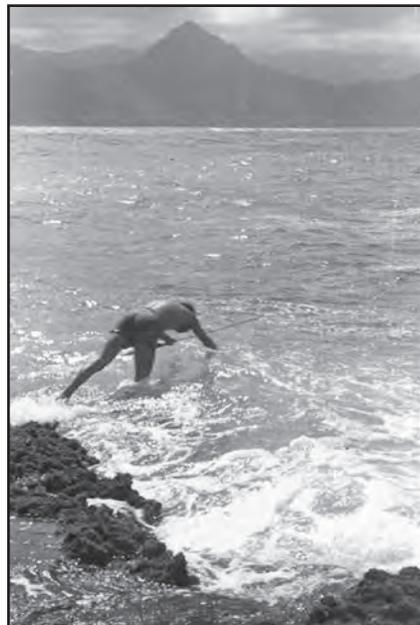


The Ocean: a Plethora of Resources

Whether ranch manager, weekend resident, truck farmer, or landowner, everyone saw the bay, the open ocean, and the shoreline as the premier attractions of Mōkapu Peninsula. Fishing grounds included all the waters surrounding the peninsula, and extended out to Kekepa Island in Kāneʻohe Bay. Different places in the waters around the peninsula were known for different kinds of catch. Octopus (locally called squid, or *beʻe*) and a wide variety of fish could be had in the bay, especially at Sumner Cove which was protected from the wind. Lobster was abundant on the reef toward Kekepa Island. At Ulupaʻu, a little cove called Pukaulua was a fishing ground to hook *uluu*. *Moi* concentrated in “holes” in the rocky shoreline at Pyramid Rock and the west coast of Ulupaʻu.

James Akau, who lived near Davis Point, echoed the sentiments of the Mokapu Tract Subdivision sales brochure, which promised a fishermen’s paradise at Mōkapu:

“We used to do a lot of net fishing out here [in the Sumner Cove area]. This is the area that they filled in. This was all shallow water. ... oh, that was a paradise for fishing.”



Spear fishing on the Pali Kilo side of the peninsula.

Thirty to forty people would be together for the *hukilau*. Family, friends, they got to pull the net. You could even be an outsider. When the net gets pulled in, you get your share [of the fish] to go home with. This is back in the 1930s. In fact, it goes back further to the 1920s. The first *hukilau* I was in was at Ulupaʻu. I was ten or eleven years old.

*James Ako, 1981,
remembering hukilau at Ulupaʻu*



Net fishing.

Nets were a favorite method of fishing in traditional Hawaiʻi. It continued in many forms at Mōkapu.



Right: Dip net.
Above right: Throw net.
Below: *Hukilau*.



Fishing Protocols

Mōkapu's older Hawaiian fishermen practiced traditional protocols that they tried to impart to the younger ones. One rule was to only take what you could use. Joseph Haia, who was a teenager in the 1930s, remembers being out on the reef between the peninsula and Kekepa Island:



Paddling a single-hull outrigger canoe.

I seen this water rippling, went home, get throw nets. We caught so much fish that day, you know that *‘oama*. Came home, told my grandfather I going give the neighbors. He said “No, ‘cause had so much you stay there and start cleaning ‘em.” And I cleaned from 9:00 in the morning to 7:00 at night. Never did stop. And I learned when he told me, “When you get something you make use of all of it.” And he wouldn’t let me go. I had to stay there and clean fish and he wouldn’t let me go give the neighbors. That’s how we learned, “Don’t over do it.”

Another practice was to not speak about going fishing because that would warn the fish. Aaron Chaney remembers that if he asked his Uncle Kainoa “you going fishing?” the response was always “What you mean fishing, I never fish, never fish!” The idea was that if you said you were going fishing, the fish would go elsewhere: “you won’t have any fish here, they’d go Wai‘anae.” Leroy Gilliland also has the same memory:

The only thing we did was, you never supposed to mention where you going to fish or what you were going to fish for, you not supposed to do that. Like on Kaua‘i, the magic word was the *malahini*. When the *malahini* is in the bay, that’s when we went after *akule*, catch *akule*.

Fishing Memories

Everyone who lived on or just visited the peninsula had fishing stories. There were a myriad of ways to make a catch: by boat, on the reef, throwing net, pole fishing, spear fishing, or *bukilau* (especially along the sandy beach fronting Kailua Bay). Whatever method was used, everyone agreed: back then, everything was more plentiful and everything was bigger. Young Aaron Chaney remembers his uncles:

He [James Lemon] and another uncle, my mother’s brother [Kainoa Makinney] ...would try to teach me about, from time to time, teach me about fishing the Hawaiian way. ... I know when he would paddle canoe, he would put one foot out on the outrigger and he would have his line for papio run wrapped around his big toe. ... would bite, the fish would grab it...he was a good fisherman, he was a good fisherman.

I remember that my Uncle Henry [Copp], they went up to Turtle Rock and they were diving and he got a hold of what was a big squid, big *he‘e*, octopus actually, and it was long, a good six feet long, and that’s big for a *he‘e*. They went to take the squid and went to take it to the boat, and as he brought it on the boat, the tentacles was all over the place and one of them caught him under the chin. And being such a long one, six feet is really long, the *he‘e* got all his legs attached to the boat because it almost choked him to death. And it was a good thing my uncle (Milton Beamer) was in the boat, because he was able to pull the thing off and get Uncle Henry into the boat again ... There’s a lot of *he‘e* out there.

Leroy Gilliland, 2013

Fishing Boats

Mōkapu fishermen used flat-bottomed boats that could maneuver the shallow reefs in Kāneʻohe Bay. Some residents along the western shoreline built boat basins and ramps to facilitate access to fishing areas. Others invited friends to come from down the coast in Kāneʻohe Bay; they would anchor in Sumner Cove, or sometimes just up the Pali Kilo coast. Fishermen used the boats to lay nets in the Kāneʻohe Bay channels, or as platforms for spearing *heʻe*, line fishing, or diving, or just to get around.

I remember my grandfather's boat – he had a big square box in the middle and all those hooks hanging out. I think they call it, it's like a *lama aino*, tapa line, and they would catch *ulua*, a lot of *ulua*. I remember that, and sharks. Because you see, if you got on the long line, the sharks would be dead.

Louis Mahoe, 2013

My Dad and Old Man Hayashi, little old Japanese man, he used to go on his boat, a little flat row boat, and it would be about a 14 foot row boat and he'd stand on the bottom with his long spear and he used to catch *tako*, *heʻe*, from the boat, he didn't have to go in the water. That Japanese had good eye, he knew where they were and he would just stay in the boat and pole around and find his squid.... He would catch his *tako* that way.

Leroy Gilliland, 2013

[George Davis] had a 20-foot flat bottom boat with a 25-horse or 50-horse motor ... that's the boat that they used to go fishing in. Shirley [George's daughter] used to tell me when the father used to catch squid or eels, she'd be up in the very front with her eyes looking at it. And she was scared of the eel and the squid. It's a funny story. She'd sit there and watch the squid just suck its way up and go back over into the water and the father would come back to the boat, look in, and tell her, "What happened to my squid?" And she says, "It got away."

Louis Mahoe, 2013

A Glossary of Mōkapu Fish and Marine Terms

<i>akule</i>	big-eyed scadfish
<i>'ala'ala</i>	ink sack in squid or octopus
<i>alamibi</i>	common black crab
<i>awa</i>	milkfish
<i>awakalamoho</i>	deep sea awa; or very large awa
<i>hauma</i>	bait
<i>he'e</i>	octopus, commonly called squid (<i>tako</i> in Japanese)
<i>hinalea</i>	small to moderate-sized wrasse
<i>hukilau</i>	communal seine net fishing
<i>kala</i>	surgeonfish
<i>limu</i>	seaweed
<i>limu kōbu</i>	one of the best-liked seaweeds; soft and succulent
<i>līpe'epe'e</i>	type of red seaweed
<i>līpoa</i>	fragrant seaweed
<i>loli</i>	sea cucumber
<i>manauea</i>	small red seaweed
<i>moi</i>	threadfish
<i>nehu</i>	anchovy
<i>'oama</i>	immature weke
<i>'okole</i>	sea anemone
<i>'opae</i>	shrimp
<i>'opibi</i>	limpet
<i>papio</i>	immature ulua
<i>pokipoki</i>	gray, hard-shelled box crab
<i>ubu</i>	parrotfish
<i>ulua</i>	crevalle, jack, or pompano fish; a top game fish
<i>wana</i>	sea urchin
<i>weke</i>	goatfish

Net Fishing

Net fishing was common at Mōkapu, with nets ranging from hand dip nets and scoops to gill nets to large throw nets. The catch included *moi* (some as large as eight pounds, according to George Davis), *kala*, *uhu*, and mullet, as well as squid and other small sea animals. Joseph Haia, a teenager when living on Mōkapu in the 1930s, remembers catching *awakalamoho*, deep sea *awa*, in a sand channel in the reef off Pali Kilo:

It's all shallow water. This reef, this reef here there was one channel, deep channel. The fish would come through, the fish would come through there...and then, I don't know how, some way in there they came in and anyway, they went through this sand channel to get into Kāne'ōhe Bay. *Awa*, this kind size [length of your arm]. Yeah, three feet. Better than that. That's what this one guy said. "Oh that's *awakalamoho*, that's from the deep sea." So he said this comes from the deep sea and come in for spawn and then go back out. My mother used to get mad with me. I wouldn't even change pants, just get home from school, roll up the pants, and go out there and put the net out and then go home. You know, put it out before it gets dark. And was just, I say the channel wouldn't be wider from here to the parlor...Fifty [feet] maybe, and we'd hit them every time. ... I think they come through that channel because that's the only deep channel with deep water.

Lucia White-Whitmarsh recalls a Japanese man named Tsuaki who helped her father, William Kekuhaupī'o White, with his nets:

Oh yeah, well, Tsuaki was the one. He did all the work, he made the nets and he mended the nets and my dad dyed them with the, I guess what do you call the squid ... '*ala'ala*, '*ala'ala*. And they used to dye some of the nets. But in those days, they didn't have the kind of nets they have these days, you know the nylon type. They had linen, they used linen. And Daddy used to throw net over there a lot, do a lot of throw net over there. ... Oh, *he'e* yeah. They got plenty *he'e*.

Dip and scoop nets were also used to catch fish, as well as smaller ocean creatures. George and Mary Davis recall catching '*opae* (shrimp) in dip nets in the small lagoon at Davis Point. Lucia White-Whitmarsh describes catching '*alamibi* and '*pokipoki* crab in the same lagoon:

just put the light or lantern or *kukui hele pō* or else a flashlight, just shine down in the water and scoop up the crab 'cause the light would just stun them. And they just stop and you scoop them up with the net. The water was very low, very low.



Arthur H. Rice, Sr.

Arthur Rice, Sr., was a well-known master throw net fisherman. He often came to Mōkapu to fish. This photograph was taken in 1909 at his family home at Kipu Kai on Kaua'i.



Dip and scoop net fishing.



Squidding

Mōkapu was an excellent place for octopus (or as it was more commonly called, squid or *he'e*). In fact, there were traditional rights to *he'e* that came with ownership of Mōkapu *ili*. Shortly after John K. Sumner passed away in 1915, a public notice was posted in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin that established Wally Davis as the holder of fishing rights to squid. George Davis remembers that he and his father would chase out people who were trying to catch *he'e*. In traditional times, *he'e* was considered a *konobiki* resource, that is, they were a resource saved for the chiefs.

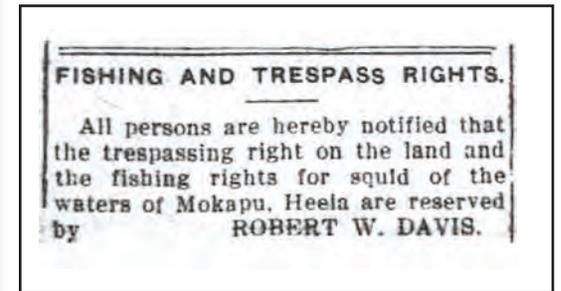
By the 1930s, the rights to *he'e* had passed to James Lemon, who owned a lot on the shore at Pali Kilo. People on the peninsula were respectful of Lemon's rights, and conversely, if Lemon knew that a person was a Mōkapu resident, it wasn't necessary to ask permission to catch squid. However, if a person didn't live on the peninsula, Lemon would assert his rights.



Catching squid.

Had the Konohiki Rights. Somewhere along there, I don't know how he acquired them but he had them. Had sheriff's badge, pistol, Tahitian canoe. See anybody out there fishing in this area, he and the Filipino man that worked for him in the yard [would] jump in the canoe and off they went. Got along out, if they'd give him a bad time pull the gun out. Showed the sheriff's badge. "I have the right to..." And actually he did.

*Aaron Chaney, 1995,
speaking on his uncle James Lemon's rights to he'e*



Squid drying on clothes line.

George Davis reminisces about catching *he'e* up to 15 pounds and filling up a big gunny sack. Margaret Date recalls two distinct varieties of *he'e*: “night time *he'e* are softer and have longer tentacles. When you cook them they turn reddish. The day ones are grayish. The night *he'e* is good for cooking, it's softer, but the day *he'e* is better for drying.”

Once caught, the squid had to be processed by pounding, drying, and salting. There were different ways to do this. A common method was to salt the squid and then hang them on the clothes line to dry. Kina'u Boyd Kamali'i remembers “our clothes line would just be loaded with squid dry, dry, dry. We used to do all of that and salt our squid for our own consumption and that's the Hawaiian chewing gum.” Of squid on clothes lines, George Davis says: “Oh gee, used to be beautiful seeing all these squids drying.”

Margaret Date remembers putting the *he'e* and salt inside of a wooden keg, and then rocking the keg back and forth. The *he'e* would soften, and “the feet would all shrivel up.” James Ako describes a direct pounding method:

Yeah, there was a big black rock and the ladies pound squid all day and dry them right on the rock. No more flies out there because it's way out and they dry them on the rock, usually on Sunday afternoons. Those days squid was plentiful...they would come home with 40 to 50 dried squid but that would last them for a couple of weeks before they catch again.

Lobsters, Crabs, and Oysters

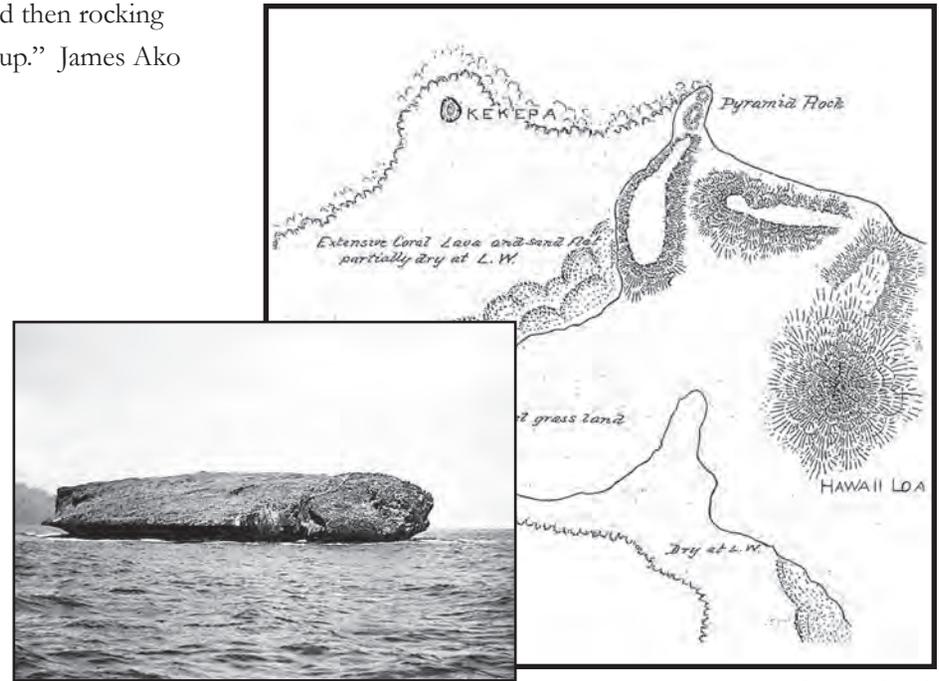
Mōkapu was also noted for its superb lobsters, which were caught by net or diving or by improvised methods, depending on the situation. The reef area between Pyramid Rock and Kekepa Island was a favorite lobster fishing ground. Jack Williams had two ways to catch lobster, one conventional and one creative:

It'd be shallow, low tide, we'd walk out with the nets on our shoulders, start from here, lay them out on the rocks, right on the edge of the reef about 200-300 feet of our net and get lobsters a good foot and a half long ... big ones.

You know the old mop head. You tie the cord on it with rock and then you put *hauna* [bait] and you drop it inside by the rock ... the lobster hole. You don't need a hook, the darn lobster get all tangled up in the mop. That's how we use to catch the lobster.

A variety of crabs was also collected: *alamibi*, *pokipoki*, and white crab, mostly in and around Davis Point.

Another ocean delicacy was oysters, which were imported by the Territorial Fish and Game Commission from east coast U.S. oyster growers and planted in Kāne'ōhe Bay in 1921. George Davis remembers the oysters near Wilson Pier: “Right in front that pier. That's where had a lot of oysters. ... Dive in the morning. About 3:00 in the morning sometime.”



Kekepa Island.

Commonly called Turtle Rock Island or Turtle Island (for the obvious reason), Kekepa was a favorite fishing spot for Mōkapu residents. A shallow reef connected peninsula and island, making it possible to walk across during low tide.

My tutu used to row out with the boat with my uncle Sonny and my mother on the boat, and they would go around Kū'au where you could see this rock at low tide, and my tutu would throw the big rock for her boat, you know, to anchor it. And then she would just say to my mother and my uncle, she would just say, “be prepared when I come up.” Okay, and of course, the trip is that they were always, when she came up, they were not prepared. But, my tutu would dive down and she would pick lobster one at a time, and she would put each lobster one on top of the other's back until she has maybe about a dozen, and she would come up and she would throw the lobsters in the boat. ... this trick of putting them one on top of the other and they held on to each other.

**Anita Kahanupa'oa Gouveia, 1995,
describing diving for lobster around the ocean side of Pyramid Rock**

Along the Ocean's Edge: Collecting from the Reef

Besides fish and larger sea animals like *he'e* and lobsters, the reefs and rocky shorelines of Mōkapu were a source of smaller ocean edibles, like *wana*, *'opihi*, *loli*, and *'okole*, as well as *limu*.

'Opihi

'Opihi are limpets shaped like flat, inverted cones. They cling tenaciously to boulders in surge zones and need to be pried off with a knife. Jack Williams remembers the *'opihi* at Mōkapu: “My brother-in-law and I would go out to Pyramid Rock and get *'opihi*. When you bite it — oh the mouth. I used to love that, that's how I got to love *'opihi* because from here, because had just the right size, the meat, about that big [one to two inches]. And when you bite it, as you say, soft.”

'Okole

Agnes Hipa, whose family would visit Wally and Kealohanui Davis at their home near Davis Point, remembers the *'okole* [sea anemone]: “And another thing they used to get, they call it the *'okole*. And it was like the flower, you know. Oh, that was my mother's favorite. Oh, she used to like the *'okole*. There used to have a lot of that.”

Wana

Wana are small, reef-living sea urchins that attach to coral and rocky surfaces in shallow water; they are protected with an armor of spines. The task of removing the spines often fell to the younger members of the fishing party. The Thompson family went out to Ulupa'u to pick up *wana* and it was son Henry's job “to shake them, shake off their spines.” Another youngster, Leroy Gilliland, remembers the “de-spiker” a rectangular contraption — you throw the *wana* in and shake it and you knock off all the thorns.” His memory is also of its richness: “That *wana* is such, such a rich food product. But at my age I used to eat it — one *wana* is for me, one is for the bowl, one is for me, one is for the bowl, and after I finished the first part — all for the bowl and none for me because it was so rich.”

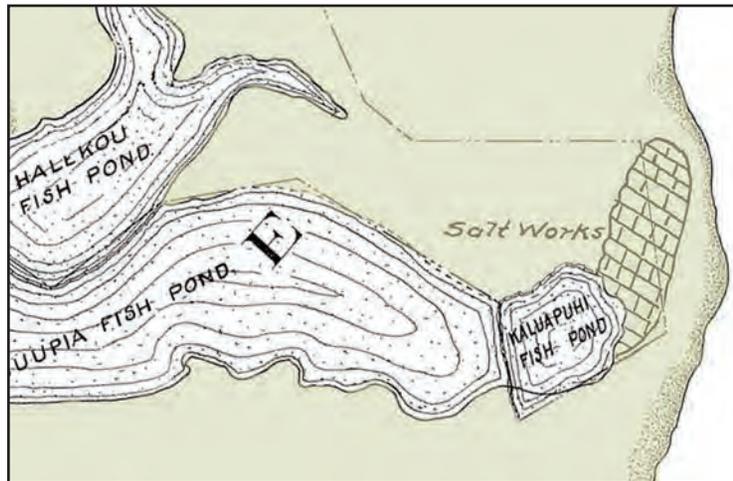
Limu

Jerine Kekua-Doo, whose family lived on the Kailua side of Mōkapu, recalls the kinds of seaweed that her family collected: “I know we had *līpe'epe'e*. ...I know that one because it was a little hot and we liked it. And *mananea*, because this is all along on the edge. That was red *mananea*. Yeah, yeah, the crunchy one. What's the other ones, ah? ...We had *līpoa*...the *līpoa*...You could just smell the aroma. Oh, I love it. That's how we remembered. You know I said, “Oh, *līpoa* we must go down.”

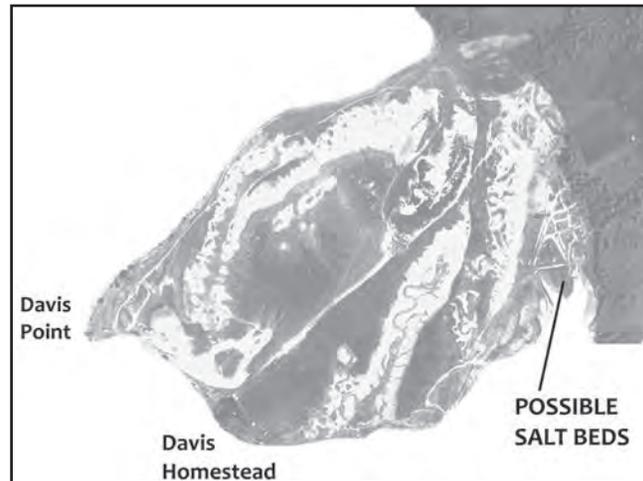
Salt Collection

Salt is a valuable resource. Hawaiians used it for a multitude of purposes, from drying fish to medicine. In pre-Contact and early historic times, a noted feature of the eastern peninsula landscape was the salt pans at Kapoho, just east of Kaluapuhi Pond. Although fallen into disuse by the 20th century, the pans were still recognizable by Vaughn MacCaughey, in his 1917 visit to the peninsula:

At Ka-lua-puhi we paused to observe the remains of the ancient native salt works or “pans.” The method employed in the construction of these evaporation vats was very simple: a suitable area was leveled and then by means of low earthen banks was laid off into shallow rectangular plots, and the salt deposited through evaporation.



Portion of a 1914 map of the peninsula, showing the salt works east of Kaluapuhi Pond.



1928 aerial photograph of southwest Mōkapu, showing geometric forms in the wetlands that could be salt beds.

Another set of constructed salt beds was located in the shallow lagoon northwest of the Davis home in western Mōkapu. George Davis remembers that “there was a building, what you call, just like a fishpond but shallow, eh, pour the salt water.”

In the 1920s and 1930s, people who came to the peninsula collected salt from natural sources. A favorite location was along the northeast shore of the peninsula, where the sand beach meets the rocky shoreline at Ulupa‘u.

That was during the summertime when the kids were out of school. Then sometimes two to three families they camp down Mōkapu ... then when they go they make their Hawaiian salt. They go during the summer when it's hot like this, and they go *makai* close to Bird Island [Moku Manu]. ...During the summer, the Hawaiians used to take their families and pick bags and bags of salt and load up the wagon. And instead of going to the salt pan because it was closed...they go down [to the pockets] and pick it...it's like crushed ice. So they gather the salt on top, because underneath is dirty...white salt... just like haole salt. They pick them by the bags...of course, it's still damp so they bring it home and put it out on paper and dry it out in the sun for days until they get all the moisture out.

James Ako, 1981,
describing salt collection on the Ulupa‘u shore

The Military Comes to the Peninsula

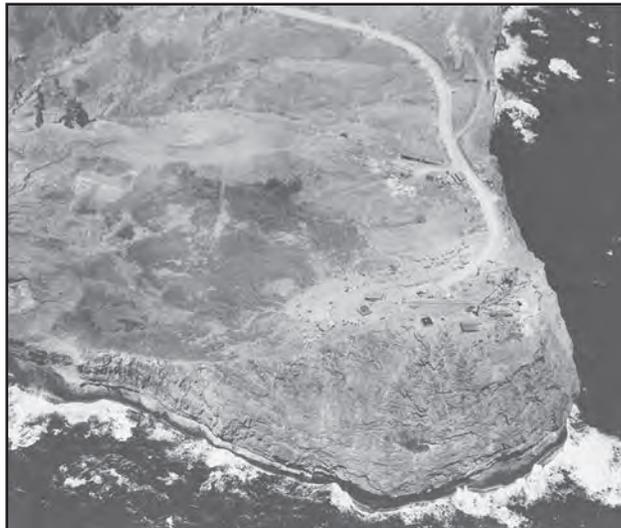
The Army on Mōkapu

In 1918, through Executive Order 2900, President Woodrow Wilson designated 322 acres in the central portion of Mōkapu Peninsula as the U.S. Army's Kuwaaohē Military Reservation. Deactivated at the end of World War I, the reservation was leased for ranching until 1939, when it was reactivated as Fort Kuwaaohē. In December 1940, Fort Kuwaaohē was renamed Fort Hase, in honor of Major General William F. Hase, who served as Chief of Staff of the Army's Hawaiian Department from April 1934 to January 1935. It served as headquarters of the Harbor Defenses of Kāneʻohe Bay.

**Aerial view of Fort Hase, 1942,
looking to the northeast toward Ulupaʻu Crater.**



Although the military reservation was not an active installation in the 1920s and most of the 1930s, the Army was still using the peninsula as part of the coastal defense network on Oʻahu. In 1927, Battery Kuwaaohē, which consisted of two 240 mm howitzers, was built on top of the west rim of Ulupaʻu Crater. The 41st Coast Artillery Regiment installed about 0.15 miles of railroad track at Ulupaʻu Crater in 1934, and by 1942, it had developed Battery Sylvester on the peninsula. During the war years, the Army added Battery Pennsylvania on the north rim of Ulupaʻu Crater and Battery French on the seaward slope of Puʻu Hawaiʻi Loa. There were also gun emplacements on Pyramid Rock and at the north and east beaches.



**Battery Pennsylvania under
construction, 1943, looking
to the west.**

Naval Air Station Kaneohe

On the western side of the peninsula, Naval Air Station (NAS) Kaneohe was established in 1939, following a recommendation by a government review committee (called the Hepburn Board) to develop a base for squadrons of seaplanes to support the Pearl Harbor fleet. Construction of the naval station began in September 1939. Carried out by Contractors, Pacific Naval Bases (CPNB), the work included dredge and fill operations that added 280 acres to the Kāneʻohe Bay side of the peninsula, as well as filled low-lying areas for runway and hangar construction.



Dredging operations in Kāneʻohe Bay, 1939.

Above left: The dredge B.F. Dillingham began work on September 27, 1939.

Above: A 1939 aerial photograph by the U.S. Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks, showing the dredge operating area and the bulkhead line (which is the current seaward edge of Hangars 101 to 104).

Left: View west along the bulkhead line, looking toward the coconut grove in the Thomas-Camp-Gibson-Rabe neighborhood (the former Davis homestead).

In 1940, the Navy began acquiring more land on the peninsula, ultimately condemning the privately held lots in the Mokapu Tract Subdivision. The residents of the western peninsula were given notice that they had three months to surrender their homes. Many of them were just beginning to move into permanent homes that they had spent the previous five years building. As to the compensation for the condemnation, a January 4, 1941 *Honolulu Advertiser* account states:

Several months ago, the federal government took possession of several hundred acres of Mōkapu peninsula land for use in connection with the Kaneohe navy air base now nearing construction. The question of the price to be paid for the land was left for subsequent court action. The jury in the forthcoming trial will fix the “fair market value” of the property at the time of its taking by the government.

They didn't have much choice. There was no such thing as to protest the military taking this area of land. We just accepted it ... the government was very powerful then. And when the time came you picked up and moved ... personal belongings were removed from the property. I remember because I had to help my uncle load up the truck.

**Henry Thompson, 1981,
on having to leave Mōkapu**

Some of the residents formed the Mokapu Home & Land Owners' Association to represent them in legal proceedings related to the government's valuation of their property. Some landowners appealed the government's valuation, if nothing else to make a point. Leroy Gilliland remembers:

Through Mrs. Holt [who owned a seashore lot at Pali Kilo], who was a very strong political person through the Republican Party, they fought the sale of the price and they weren't going to give us that, so they went to court. It took a long time; don't know how many years but the amount they finally gave us was more reasonable as to its value. When my folks and the Holts got the money with their court case, they drove the island and bought this property out in Punalu'u. ... When we moved to Punalu'u, it was like being in Mōkapu all over again.



Aerial view of NAS Kaneohe Bay, early 1941.
Runway and seaplane hangars are not yet complete. Many of the subdivision residences and the Territorial Game Farm remain.

Some of the houses were reused for temporary Navy housing until permanent facilities were constructed, and others were bulldozed for the airfield. Some families were still present in late 1941. Jack Williams remembers: “We were the last, one of the last families that moved out. When the Navy came in, they built bowling alleys and all that, you know, ...and we had the privilege of going down there to use the facilities.”

In November 1940, the first military unit, consisting of 30 Marines led by Marine Platoon Sergeant George Spence, arrived at the new naval air station. A few weeks later, Major J.C. Donehoo, Jr., became the first Marine Barracks Commanding Officer at the station. The Navy Commanding Officer, Commander Harold Montgomery Martin, arrived in early December. On February 15, 1941, the facility became known officially as Naval Air Station (NAS) Kaneohe. The flag was raised in a formal commissioning ceremony at the base of Pu'u Hawai'i Loa.

NAS Kaneohe was considered to be of exceptional strategic importance for the defense of Pearl Harbor. By late 1941, there were about 150 facilities on the new air station, including the airstrip, housing, gasoline storage facilities, and maintenance buildings. One of Commander Martin's priority projects was construction of Baker Tower (now known as Kansas Tower). Sitting at the peak of Pu'u Hawai'i Loa, the tower became the nerve center of the air station and gave aircraft controllers a panoramic view of the windward coast of the island.



**Commissioning Ceremony,
February 1941.**



**Kansas Tower,
October 1942.**

**Barracks under construction,
August 1940.**



Mess Hall under construction, August 1940.



World War II

On December 7, 1941, NAS Kaneohe was headquarters for Patrol Wing One, which consisted of three patrol squadrons, VP-11, VP-12 and VP-14, each of which had twelve Consolidated PBV Catalina aircraft. The Japanese attack on O‘ahu began with two strafing runs over the naval air station, followed by a bomber attack about an hour later and then a third strafing run. Eighteen sailors and two civilians were killed, and 69 others were injured. Hangar 101 was nearly destroyed and the other hangars were damaged. Of the 33 planes on the ground or floating just offshore, 27 were put out of commission, and the remaining sustained serious damage. Three Japanese fighter planes were shot down, one at the base of Pu‘u Hawai‘i Loa and two in Kailua Bay.

With the onset of war, the Navy acquired Harold Castle’s Kaneohe Ranch lands and the Territorial Game Farm, thus taking control of the entire peninsula except for Fort Hase. Military construction intensified, and facilities were greatly expanded in size and capabilities. All civilian residents were forced to leave the peninsula.

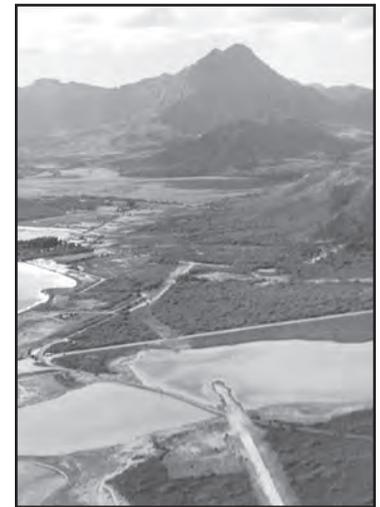
After the American victory at Midway in June 1942, battlefield action moved west to other Pacific islands, and NAS Kaneohe took on aviation responsibilities of aircraft assembly and repair, supply, and training. It had an important gunnery school and an instrument flying school. It provided accommodations for units passing through Hawai‘i on their way to combat areas, and was responsible for the administration of NAS Kaneohe and combat theater units.



Western Mōkapu Peninsula, 1944. The view is looking south, with Pyramid Rock at lower right, and Pu‘u Hawai‘i Loa at center left.

When the bombs first fell, my tutu tells me that she was hanging clothes in the backyard... on December 7th... she was hanging clothes, it was early in the morning, on a Sunday morning, and she could see all the way to Mōkapu from our house. And she saw the planes bombing and puffs of smoke on the Base. And she called Papa Cypher because Papa was with the police force at that time.

*Mahealani Cypher, 2013,
the Cypher family lived in Kāne‘ohe
across the bay from Mōkapu*



A new access road.

At the beginning of World War II, the Territory realigned the 1934 access road to the peninsula, but this time, ignored existing landscape features and blazed the road across the east end of Nu‘upia Pond.

Faces of Mōkapu: Radioman Cass Phillips

With imminent war on the horizon, a new kind of community emerged on the peninsula. This community was a military one, informed by military rules and military associations. Mōkapu Peninsula was the installation, and the installation was home and work and play.

Cass Eldridge Phillips was born in Pampa, Texas in 1920. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1938, as soon as he turned 18. The following year, service on the USS Argonne, a World War I-era tender turned communications ship for the cruiser force, brought him to Hawai'i. Once in the islands, he was assigned to the VP-11 squadron at NAS Kaneohe, which was still under construction. There were only two hangars, one for his squadron and one for another squadron.

Cass was a Radioman 1st Class on the VP-11 crew and his duty was to make sure that the radio gear on the plane was ready and working. He also assisted the “plane captain” who was responsible for daily and turn-around inspections of the aircraft (that is, “keeping the plane ready to go”). Cass said that he would go to work around 7:00 in the morning and knock off around 2:30 or 3:00 in the afternoon. If there was no other duty, he and his friends could go ashore, or they could stay on-base and take advantage of recreational opportunities like softball, baseball, football, and running. As he puts it, there were “lots of facilities.”

Cass lived in a brand new, single-story, ranch-style barracks that he remembers had really nice terrazzo floors. There were single bunks with large lockers at the end of each bed. The parking lot was just outside the door and if you had a car, you could drive to the nearby mess hall. There was an exchange in the barracks area.

For entertainment off-base, Cass and his friends went body-surfing at Makapu'u, and swimming in a waterfall pool up the windward coast. Honolulu was the big off-duty destination. They kept a civilian change of clothes in a “locker club.” Sometimes they would go to Waikiki where there was a large theater where someone played the organ in the afternoons; they could sit and listen to the music. Later in the day, the theater would show movies. They would also go to dances where they could meet girls.

Three weeks after the December 7 attack, Cass left Hawai'i to go to flight school where he became a naval aviation pilot.



Cass Phillips in 2012 and as a young Navy man.

Mōkapu Happenings: A Snapshot by Decades



Cleaning birds at Moku Manu Island, 1886.



Harold Castle and herd behind Heleloa Dune.

1840s	Members of the U.S. Exploring Expedition drew the first detailed map of Mōkapu. St. Catherine's Catholic Church was built on the site of a <i>heiau</i> on Keawanui; the first baptism was held in 1841.
1850s	In the Mahele, Abenera Pākī received the <i>ahupua'a</i> of He'eia, including Mōkapu 'ili, and Hazaleponi Kalama received the <i>ahupua'a</i> of Kāne'ohe, including the 'ili of Heleloa and Ulupa'u. Kamehameha III received the 'ili of Kuwa'aohe in the center of the peninsula, and Halekou and Kaluapuhi Ponds, as Crown Lands. In 1856, Pākī died, and his holdings on Mōkapu were acquired by John and William Sumner.
1870s	Kalama died in 1870 and her Mōkapu land was acquired by her partner, Charles C. Harris in 1876.
1880s	Charles C. Harris died in 1881, and his daughter Nannie inherited his estate. William Sumner died in 1885, leaving Mōkapu to his brother John. Eduard Arning took photographs at Mōkapu in 1886.
1890s	J.P. Mendonça leased lands, including Mōkapu, from Nannie Harris for ranching. John Sumner assigned the 'ili of Mōkapu to his nephew Robert (Wally) Davis through a trust in 1892. Sumner was living in Tahiti with his wife Ninito at the time; they returned to Hawai'i in 1897. Kaneohe Ranch was established in 1893, and was formally incorporated as Kaneohe Ranch Company, Limited, in December 1895.
1900s	In 1907, James B. Castle bought stock in Kaneohe Ranch. Nannie Harris had, by this time, married David Rice and was living in Boston.
1910s	In 1910, A.V. and Addie Gear started an initially successful but short-lived commercial cotton plantation on 464 acres leased from Wally Davis. In 1915, John Sumner died at the Mōkapu home of Wally Davis. Around this same time, Arthur Rice acquired a lease on Heleloa 'ili. In 1917, Harold K.L. Castle bought Kaneohe Ranch from Nannie Rice. In 1918, the U.S. Army established Kuwaahe Military Reservation on 322 acres in the middle of the peninsula; it was de-activated after World War I and leased for ranching.
1920s	In 1921, the Territory of Hawai'i established a game bird farm on 345 acres on the north side of the fishponds. A private club for shooting was set up at what is now Fort Hase Beach. In 1927, the U.S. Army began construction of Battery Kuwaahe on the west rim of Ulupa'u Crater. In 1928, the Game Farm acquired two pairs of <i>nenē</i> from Big Island breeders.

1930s	<p>Development of the Mokapu Tract Subdivision began in 1932. Wally Davis died in 1933.</p> <p>Pan American Radio Facility was built on He'eia Dune in 1934.</p> <p>In 1934, the Territory built a new road from Kailua to Mōkapu, following the alignment of the wall between Halekou and Kaluapuhi Fishponds.</p> <p>In 1939, Kuwaaohē Military Reservation was reactivated as Fort Kuwaaohē.</p> <p>In 1939, the U.S. Navy began acquiring lands for a naval air station. Residents were given three months to vacate their homes, although some were allowed to remain for longer.</p>
1940s	<p>In 1940, Fort Kuwaaohē was renamed Fort Hase.</p> <p>In November 1940, the first Marine unit arrived at the naval air station, which was still under construction.</p> <p>In February 1941, Naval Air Station (NAS) Kaneohe was commissioned.</p> <p>On December 7, 1941, NAS Kaneohe was the first site to be hit during the Japanese attack on O'ahu.</p>



Fort Hase, 1939, view to north.



Boat dock at coconut grove, view to He'eia.



Farm house and fields, 1939.

Photo Credits

Page	Photograph	Credit *
Title page	View of Mōkapu from Heeia Radio Station, 1920	HSA, Album 53
ii/iii	Panorama of Kāneʻohe Bay	IARII
iv	Panorama of MCB Hawaii from Ulupaʻu	Steve Tome, MCB Hawaii Facilities
1	Pyramid Rock, 1930	BPBM, CP 86003
1	Heleloa Dune, 1939	NARA, RG 71-CA, Photo 156D-43
1	Looking south across fishponds	AEP, Repro No. AEP-HIS227
1	Puʻu Hawaiʻi Loa	IARII
3	Haʻikū Valley, 1920	HSA, Album 53
3	Kāneʻohe from Nuʻuanu Pali, 1887	HSA
3	Kāneʻohe from Nuʻuanu Pali, 2013	IARII
4	Panorama of fishponds	IARII
5	Abenera Pākī	http://gallery.ksbe.edu/archives/
5	Hazaleponi Kalama	HSA
6	<i>Heiau</i> at Mōkapu by Eduard Arning	HHS, Photo 1.211
7	Portrait of William Sumner	HSA, PP79-4.023-S
7	Portrait of Maria Sumner	HSA, PP79-4.021-S
7	Portrait of John Sumner	www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov
8	Cattle grazing	<i>Paradise of the Pacific</i> , Dec. 1938
8	Farm field with mules	NARA, RG 71-CA, Photo 156D-22
8	Cottage and boat	Christie Gibson
9	Davis house at Mōkapu, 1920	HSA, Album 53
9	1943 aerial view of Hangar 105	NARA, RG 80-G, Photo 419056
10	Cowboys at Mōkapu by Eduard Arning	HHS, Photo 1.216
11	Kaneohe Ranch round-up	HSA
12	J.P. Mendonça	HSA, PP76-4.010
12	Views of J.P. Mendonça building	IARII
13	Cotton cultivation	www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov
14	Aerial view of western Mōkapu	Kaneohe Library
15	Arthur Rice and children	HSA, PP78-1.014
16	Farm scenes	NARA, RG 71-CA, Photos 156D-18, 20, 45
17	Aerial view of western Mōkapu	Kaneohe Library
17	Oblique aerial view of farm fields	Kaneohe Library
19	Typical horse and buggy	Internet
19	Horse and buggy on old Pali Road	Internet, 1910 postcard
20	Kaneohe Ranch cowboys	HSA
21	Views of the Castle beach home	Hedemann brothers memoirs
21	Harold Castle and dogs	HSA, PP69-4.015
21	Dr. Straub's lot	NARA, RG 80-G, Photo 418011

Page	Photograph	Credit *
22	Wilson Pier	NARA, RG 71-CA, Photo 156D-16
22	Aerial of Territorial Game Farm	NARA, RG 80-G, Photo 417806
23	Guinea hens in outdoor pen	HSA, PP4-8.008
23	Frank M. Locey	HSA, PP4-8.023
25	Cattle drive on new Mōkapu Road	HSA
26	Mokapu Tract Subdivision brochure	HSA
27	Aerial view of western Mōkapu	NARA, RG 18-AO, Box 98, Neg. 221R-22
29	Homes in Mokapu Tract Subdivision	Christie Gibson
30	Aerial views of Pali Kilo	MCB Hawaii Environmental Office
30	Aerial view of southern Mokapu Tract Subdivision	Kaneohe Library
31	Samuel W. King	HSA, PP74-9.016
31	George Davis and Mary Furtado-Davis	Kepā Maly (1995 Puʻu Hawaiʻi Loa oral history report)
31	Buffandeau beach house	MCB Hawaii Environmental Office
32	Composite of photographs of children at Mōkapu	1995 Puʻu Hawaiʻi Loa oral history report; John Nolan, Christie Gibson
34	Leroy Gilliland and "Doc" Burrows	Maria Orr
35	Pan American Airways radio towers	Christie Gibson
36	Spear fishing	Christie Gibson

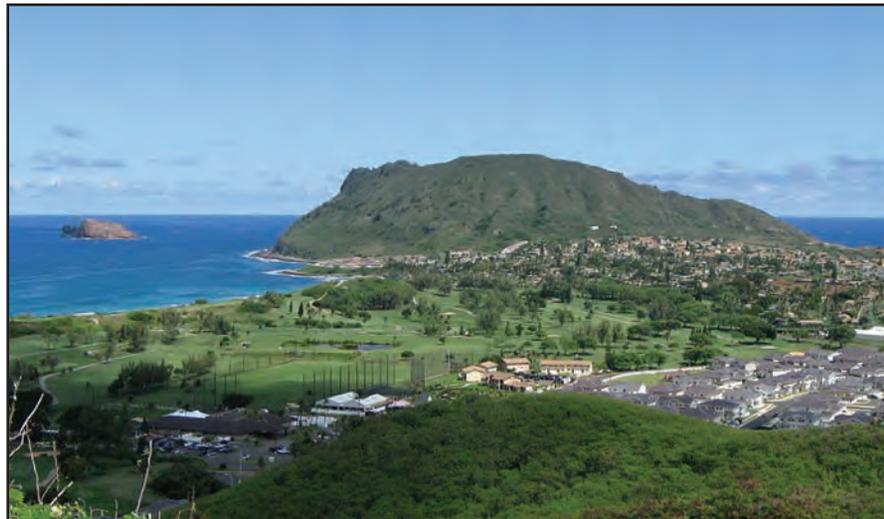
Puʻu Hawaiʻi Loa.





Pyramid Rock.

Ulupa'u Crater and Moku Manu Island, from Pu'u Hawai'i Loa.
Compare this view with the 1939 photograph on page 1.



Page	Photograph	Credit *
36	Hukilau, throw net, and dip net	HSA
37	Man in outrigger	HSA
39	Arthur H. Rice, Sr., at Kipu Kai, Kaua'i, 1909	http://libraryphoto.cr.usgs.gov/html/lib/btch433/btch433z/mwc00771.jpg
39	Dip net fisherwoman, fisherman	HSA
40	Man with <i>he'e</i>	HSA, PP22-2.010
40	<i>He'e</i> drying on clothes line	Internet, www.ebay.com
41	Kekepa Island	Christie Gibson
44	Aerial view of Fort Hase	NARA, RG 80-G, Photo 417805
44	Aerial view of Ulupa'u Crater rim	NARA, RG 18-AO, Box 98, Neg. 221R-21
45	Views of dredge and bulkhead	NARA, RG 71-CA, Photos 156D-32, 49
45	Aerial view of bulkhead line	MCB Hawaii Environmental Office
46	Aerial view of NAS Kaneohe	MCB Hawaii Environmental Office
47	Barracks and mess hall under construction	MCB Hawaii Environmental Office
47	Kansas Tower	NARA, RG 80-G, Photo 419021
47	NAS commissioning ceremony	Kaneohe Library
48	Aerial view of western Mōkapu, 1944	NARA, RG 18-AO, Box 98, Neg. 221R-22
48	Aerial view of new access road	NARA, RG 80-G, Photo 419193
49	Cass Phillips –as young Navy man	http://pearlharborhonorflight.com/heroes-stories/
49	Cass Phillips –in 2012	MCB Hawaii Environmental Office
50	Harold Castle and herd	HSA
50	Moku Manu Island	HSA, PP97-1.037
51	Farm house and fields	MCB Hawaii Environmental Office
51	Fort Hase	NARA, RG 80-G, Photo 418011
51	Boat dock	Christie Gibson
52	Pu'u Hawai'i Loa	IARII
53	Pyramid Rock and Ulupa'u Crater	IARII
54	Nalani Olds	Internet, archives.midweek.com
54/55	Portraits	Maria Orr

* AEP= American Environmental Photographs, University of Chicago Library, Special Collections Resource Center
 BPBM=B.P. Bishop Museum
 HHS=Hawaiian Historical Society
 HSA=Hawai'i State Archives
 IARII=International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc.
 NARA=National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD.

Memories: From Times Not So Long Ago

Nalani Olds is the great-great-granddaughter of William K. Sumner. Born in 1937, she was too young to experience Mōkapu before it was transformed into a military landscape. However, in the 1940s and 1950s, her father, Kenneth Olds, brought his children to the base to share family stories and show them places of their family heritage. Nalani remembers: “As a child I don’t recall that much, other than that we would go to Mōkapu to fish. A lot of times, it was just to go to fish and leave after that. ... but also I think my father was trying to get us to look at it and remember it as we grew up.”



We thought we were the only people living on this earth. Just to go freely all over without any restrictions, not knowing any place belonged to anybody. Just free and I thought I owned the whole lot.

Margaret Date, 1995



Charles “Doc” Burrows lived on the east side of Mōkapu, where he remembers: “When family members would come over, we’d wake up early in the morning to see the sun rise, coming from the eastern part of Kailua Bay.”



Richard “Likeke” Papa, Jr., who is part of Nalani’s *‘obana*, was acting Chief and Fire Captain at MCB Hawaii for 20 years, but as he says: “After awhile working there and being involved with Nalani, and then I really knew why I was there—the Fire Department was just a job, but the real job was to protect the area—caretaker of the *‘iwi*... from Pyramid Rock to North Beach, that’s the largest natural burial site in the whole archipelago.”

I thought Mōkapu was the most beautiful place to live in where we could roam and beaches and have no fear. Just go out fishing, you can ride your horse, you know, and everybody was just wonderful. It was different kind of living than what we have right now. But if we could ever go back there, I’d drop everything to go back.

Mary Furtado-Davis, 1995



Leroy Gilliland’s parents bought a Pali Kilo shorefront parcel in Mokapu Tract Subdivision when he was only a year old. His memories of eight childhood years of weekends and vacations on the peninsula: “Fishing was everything, all families were down there, the friends were down there, the whole community was together and we just had a lot of fun. That’s a big one.”



Donna Ann “Donnie” Kameha’iku Camvel has centuries-old family ties to the ahupua’a of He’eia and through that connection, to Mōkapu. Four generations of women in her family have come to Mōkapu “to fish, to gather salt, to, what my mother refers to as a time for women to gather. ...Fish and salt would be the primary reason for going there...but also, it was a time for the women to sort of be together. I don’t know if they would actually spend the whole summer there....part of what my great-grandmother’s relationship was to Mōkapu in terms of the spirit of sharing, that spirit and the essence of women, our strengths as women, the ability to share what’s happening, a means of communication.”

Louis Mahoe’s stories of Mōkapu come from family friendships: the Mahoe’s of Kailua and the Davis’ of Mōkapu. He recalls: “Me being a descendant of the Mahoes. My parents and grandparents used to visit them a lot; they knew George Davis. And they always go fishing there and see George. Of course, very playful people, they always had parties either in Kailua or on Mōkapu.”



My dad loved the ocean, loved fishing and stuff like that. He requested that he be buried here in the ocean. And because he had this place at He’eia, that’s why we decided to take him, that’s where he wanted to go because there would be his fishing ground. He and I would go out in the canoe, in the canoe, even flat fishing boat, we would go all the way outside out here, and we just drift fish. Big fish. He loved that place...he was close to his place in Mōkapu.

Jack Williams, 1995

Christie Gibson’s grandparents bought a beachfront lot in the coconut grove where Hangar 105 stands today. Many of the photographs in this book come from a family album showing pleasant days of friends, neighbors, sailing, diving, and good times.



Many Thanks...

This book describes the Mōkapu of the first half of the 20th century, when it was home to farmers, ranchers, weekend residents, and workers at the Territorial Game Farm and the Pan American Airways radio facility. It is based on archival records, newspaper and magazine articles, books, and Internet sources. It especially relies on oral histories of people who lived on or came to the peninsula in the 1920s and 1930s. Much appreciation is extended to the many individuals who offered their memories of a life not so long ago in time, but substantially different in landscape, and to the people who documented these histories: Terrilee Keko‘olani in 1981; Kepā Maly in 1995; Muriel Seto and Scot Parry in 1996; and Maria Ka’imipono Orr in 2013. Thanks also to historians Paul Brennan and Mahealani Cypher for sharing their knowledge.

