

Kaiholena, North Kohala

Supplemental Cultural and Historical Information and Documented Community Support

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Kaiholena and the Close Guardian Chiefs and Advisors of Kamehameha the Great

In 1848, during the Great Mahele two chiefs of kahuna lineage, Chief Kamakahonu and Chief Kaopua, traded their ancestral lands for the ahupua'a of Kaiholena, one and two. These Chiefs and their families had been advisors to and close guardians of King Kamehameha.

Chief Kamakahonu was the grandson of Chief Nae'ole, confidant of Kamehameha the Great's mother. Nae'ole protected Kamehameha at birth from Alapa'i and raised him for the first five years of his life at Awini. Later, it was Kamakahonu's uncle with whom Kamehameha entrusted Oahu when the King returned to Kona after conquering and uniting all the Islands.

The lands on Oahu for which Kamakahonu traded Kaiholena are at Kualoa, the sacred training grounds where young ali'i Chiefs completed the last stages of their training. When canoes passed this area they were required to drop sail in deference and paddle. Not doing so was kapu and the penalty was death. The importance of Kualoa is still honored today: this year when the Polynesian Voyaging Society's Hokulia sailed to Kualoa for a gathering to honor Mau Piailug (the sailing kahu from Satawal) it dropped sails honoring the traditional sacredness of Kualoa. Kualoa and the birthing stones for ali'i at Kukanilo were considered the most sacred lands on Oahu.

Chief Kaopua was a close confidant of Kamehameha the Great and was the personal guardian of his favorite wife, Queen Kahumanu. It was Kaopua's family that cleaned the bones of Queen Kahumanu's brother, Kuakini. The Bishop Museum holds an anklet made of cowry shells given to Queen Kahumanu by her Mother when she left Hana, Maui to live with her father on Moku O Kiawe (Hawaii Island). A note with the anklet states that Queen Kahumanu instructed Queen Kalama to give this anklet to Kaopua, a sign of affection.

The line of the descendents of Kaopua was tasked with caring for Kamehameha the Great's malu and weapons. A very important, personal, and significant charge. It is believed that Kaopua's grandfather, a kahuna, was with Kamehameha the Great and Queen Kahumanu at the pivotal battle of Malilua when Kawaiola was killed with a sling stone.

Chief Kaopua's family held the most sacred ahupua'a on Hawaii Island including Kahaluu and Lanihau in Kona, which include a number of heiau and was considered the ali'i intellectual center for Hawaii Island. Kaopua was granted Lanihau, which encompassed Ahu'ena Heiau, which served as Kamehameha's seat of government as he ruled the Kingdom of Hawai'i. Ahu'ena was deemed among the most powerful heiau and included Lana Nu'u Mamao (Oracle Tower) a feature not a part of every heiau of that period. King Kamehameha lived out the last days of his life at Lanihau. It is the present site of the King Kamehameha Hotel.

Chief Kaopua was a very old man by the Great Mahele. Kaopua and Chief Kamakahonu's

family were close and trusted guardians of Kamehameha the Great and were of kahuna lineage. These chiefs owned the most kapu lands in the Kingdom before the Great Mahele. But they traded these lands for Kaiholena one and two. In fact, Kaiholena is the fifth and thirty-fifth registered properties in the Mehele documents. They were secured early in the registration process.

We know Kaiholena with its number of heiau, massive halau, burials, and village complexes was an important and thriving center. Kaiholena is also the only ahupua'a whose boundaries extend to the horizon. We don't know what criteria these Chiefs used for selecting Kaiholena. We don't know what their kuleana was to this land or what is there. But whatever happened at Kaiholena or may be at Kaiholena was of such great importance that these close guardian Chiefs of Kamehameha the Great were compelled to trade the most sacred lands in the Kingdom to secure Kaiholena's protection and secure it quickly. And so should we.

Additional Archeological Information

The National Park Service has identified several historical, lined trails in parcel E (the middle lot) that are not in the archeological reports.

Documented Community Support for Kaiholena

There is a 40+ year documented history of community support for and work to preserve the North Kohala coastline including Kaiholena in open space and keep it free of any development. Key documents and actions requesting that these lands be preserved are:

- **2009 and 2008, the HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 644-08 and 106-09 DIRECTING THE PURCHASE OF KAIHOLENA.**
- **2009 STUDENTS FROM KOHALA MIDDLE SCHOOL created a DVD documenting their desire to preserve Kaiholena**
- **2009, 2008, and 2007 the HAWAII COUNTY'S PUBLIC ACCESS, OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION identified Kaiholena as a priority parcel for preservation and purchase.**
- **2006, LETTER TO THE MAYOR FROM THIRTY (30) KOHALA BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS**
- **2001, SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 146, S.D. 1**
- **2001, the ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS (representatives of all Civic Clubs) RESOLUTION**
- **2001, 2000, 1988 Three petitions with 8,000 signatures**
- **1994, SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 116**
- **1994, SENATE RESOLUTION 85**
- **1992, SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 211**
- **1988, SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 179**
- **1991 COASTLINE CONFERENCE REPORT**
- **1990, LOCALLY PRODUCED VIDEO with CLYDE SPROAT AND WILLIAM AKAU**

For decades, four of Kohala's most beloved kupuna and community leaders have worked to preserve the Kohala coastline in open space. Their names and signatures are on many of the documents, petitions, and letters summarized here. These kupuna are: Marie Solomon, William Akau, Armstrong Yamamoto and Clyde "Kindy" Sproat.

NORTH KOHALA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Adopted: November 5, 2008

Elements of the plan related to lands at Kaiholena

Page 31 of the NKCDP is a map showing the location of the 4 parcels identified by the community for public purchase: Kukupahu-Haena, Mahukona, Pao'o and Kaiholena.

The key planning implications related to Kohala's natural and cultural resources include:

□ **Coastal (makai) resources** – Kohala's pristine coastline and abundance of marine life should be protected from development and be accessible to residents.

The **Strategies** for achieving the desired Growth Management in Kohala are presented below in summary form.

Strategy 1.2: Acquire coastal lands that should be preserved as open space

Background

The Kohala Coast consists of one of the most intact "cultural landscapes" in the State of Hawai'i because of its high density of cultural and archaeological sites. This area, located makai of Akoni Pule Highway, is filled with hundreds of fishing village sites, heiau, and ko'a. Some of this important landscape is subject to the threat of future development because it is privately owned and there are no special land use regulations protecting it. The North Kohala community has identified four such properties, which are privately owned and critical to maintaining the continuous cultural landscape. They are shown in the map below (Figure 6). Thus, it is recommended that those properties be purchased – either in fee or through purchase of conservation easements – by a public entity that can protect them in perpetuity.

The County of Hawai'i Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission, or the "2% for the Land Fund" was created in 2005 for the specific purpose of protecting open space through the use of 2% of property taxes (estimated \$3.6 million for FY07).

In March (2008), the Commission released a report to the mayor identifying five priority parcels for County purchase in coming years. The first four on the list were those four North Kohala properties noted above (shown below in Figure 6). These four coastal properties will be relatively expensive to acquire, and so the preferred strategy may be the purchase of conservation easements.

However, there are still nine properties that were previously identified for purchase by the Commission, and approved by the Hawai'i County Council, but not yet purchased. One of the major limitations on completing these purchases is funding. Thus, some North Kohala residents are interested in establishing an "Open Space Bond Fund" in order to provide for more purchasing power in the near term.

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The basic idea is that the “2% Funds” would be applied to form an Open Space Bond. Recent research indicates that the 2% Fund could cover the principle and interest on a \$50 million bond, so that taxpayers would have no additional costs, but more properties could be purchased by leveraging the 2% fund. Another idea is to create a separate “Open Space and Parklands Bond” to be paid by property owners island-wide. Taxpayers would pay a certain amount to the fund, based on the value of their home; so people with more expensive homes would pay more. This money would also be leveraged, which would enable larger amounts of money to be borrowed, in order to acquire properties that match Section 214(2)(d) of the Hawai‘i County Code.

The effort to preserve the North Kohala coast has been on-going for over thirty years. The preferred outcome is a preserved coastline, free of development for the 12.5 miles between Kohala Ranch and the new Parker development south of Puakea. However, if development were to occur, it shall only be permitted and approved in such a way that would keep houses and other development from being visible in the view plane from the highway to the sea and a policy that requires significant set back from the shoreline to retain its natural character and provide better protection for archaeological sites. The policy shall also require site design that eliminates or minimizes the impact on the view plane from the shoreline going mauka.

Action Steps

- **WHO will take the lead** – Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission
- **WHAT needs to be done** – This Commission has already placed these 4 parcels (identified in Figure 6) on their priority list for purchase. Discussions with land owners regarding fee purchase or purchase of conservation easements should begin in the near future.
- **WHEN will actions take place** – Timing for acquisition of the fee interest or of the Commission has already chosen 9 other properties around the island for acquisition.
- **HOW MUCH will it Cost** – The cost of the fee interest or of a conservation easement will be determined through appraisals and negotiations.
- **Intended Outcome** – Conservation easements for the critical coastal areas identified in the accompanying map would be purchased by the Open Space Commission and protected in perpetuity.

Page 31 of the NKCDP is a map showing the location of the 4 parcels identified for public purchase: Kukupahu-Haena, Mahukona, Pao’o and **Kaiholena**.

Strategy 1.9: Establish a View Plane Protection Program to identify and protect areas of significant beauty along the Kohala Mountain Road and Akoni-Pule Highway corridor

Background

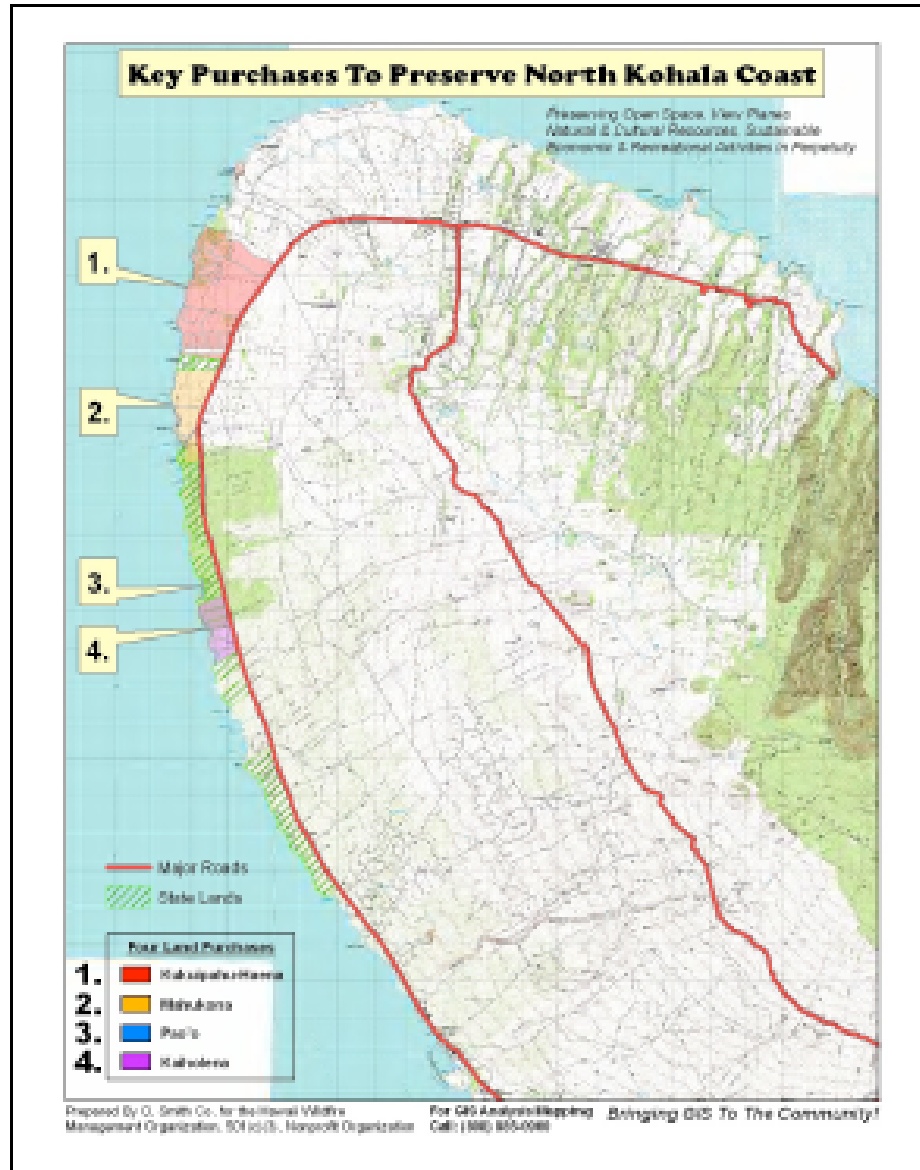
One of Kohala’s best known and appreciated attributes is its sweeping view planes – over rolling mauka fields, down to its rugged coastline, and out to the ocean. These views can be enjoyed from *Kaiholena, North Kohala*

many areas in the district, but are probably most widely viewed while driving either the Kohala Mountain Road or Akoni-Pule Highway. The community would like to ensure that these scenic resources are protected for all to enjoy, including future generations.

Action Steps

- **WHO will take the lead** – The North Kohala CDP Action Committee
- **WHAT needs to be done** –
 - Identify view planes of significant beauty along the Kohala Mountain Road and Akoni-Pule Highway
 - Identify potential programs and regulations to protect the view planes from development and/or encroachment
- **WHEN will actions take place** – As soon as the CDP is adopted and the Action Committee is organized.
- **HOW MUCH will it Cost** – Minimal.
- **Intended Outcome** – View planes along the Kohala Mountain Road and Akoni-Pule Highway will be protected.

Figure 6: Key Purchases to Preserve the North Kohala Coast



Preservation activity by Hawai'i County

2007, 2008, and 2009 the Hawaii County's Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Commission identified Kaiholena as a priority parcel for preservation and purchase.

2009 and 2008, the Hawaii County Council unanimously passed Resolutions 644-08 and 106-09 directing the administration to purchase Kaiholena.

Letter of the administration's dedication to Kaiholena purchase by Mayor Billy Kenoi, June 25, 2009

Letter of dedication to Kaiholena purchase by County Council member Pete Hoffman, June 23, 2009

List of Community Groups dedicated to stewardship of Kaiholena

Kamakani 'O Kohala Ohana – KAKO'O

Maikai'i Kamakani 'O Kohala

Kohala Historic and Cultural Preservation Group

Malama Na Wahi Pana 'O Kohala

Malama Kohala Kahakai

North Kohala Community Access Group

Malama Kai Foundation – Ocean Warriors

Kohala Senior Athletic Association

Kohala National Guard Alumni