

# to Halawa valley proposals

by Patrick Johnston

The pre-contact Hawaiian communities that once lived in the Hälawa Valley and Luluku district are gone but they will not be forgotten.

A mitigation and enhancement draft plan developed by PBR Hawai'i, with consultation from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Native Hawaiian Preservation Council has been completed and received public hearings last month. The draft lays out a comprehensive plan to preserve and protect archaeological and natural sites in the area and offers users an opportunity both to live the culture and learn about the societies that once lived there.

The document traces its roots to a 1987 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Federal Highways Administration and the Hawai'i State Department of Transportation that aimed to avoid and mitigate the adverse impact of the development of the H-3 highway. The agreement required that a study be undertaken to develop a plan to preserve the historical, cultural and natural heritage of the area.

The mitigation draft — which is just a proposal and open to revision — stresses improved access to the cultural legacy of the area. The proposal would preserve archaeological and cultural sites found on both sides of the Ko'olau mountains and provide two interpretive centers: one in North Hälawa and one in Luluku, complete with complementing trails, landscaping and interpretive signage.

Two mitigation measures are involved in the plan: a preservation plan, designed to "specify sites" and determine the ideal method of preserving them; and an "interpretive development plan," one that would address the questions of access, on-site interpretation, maintenance, appropriate treatment of structural components, acquisition of water rights, financial responsibility and interpretive concerns.

Plan developers hope that preserving these sites and providing interpretive centers will help perpetuate

the skills, knowledge, and appreciation of Hawaiian agricultural technology.

## North Hälawa Valley

The North Hälawa Valley contains archaeological resources that are largely native Hawaiian habitation and dryland agricultural sites. The agricultural uses of the area were generally small plots farmed by residents for personal use.

## Interpretive plan

### Active preservation

The plan for the North Hälawa Valley includes what is termed "active preservation." This involves preserving cultural sites, repairing archaeological features, clearing non-native vegetation, and providing an accessible interpretive display for educational and cultural purposes. An example of a site targeted for active preservation would be "Site 85," an agricultural and habitation site which includes small religious structures.

### Passive preservation

"Passive preservation" would leave sites untouched but would improve access by providing trails and clearing brush. Burials or other sensitive sights would be protected by keeping any improvements or signage from their vicinity.

### Interpretive center

As part of the educational experience, an interpretive center would be built at an entry point in North Hälawa that would provide a variety of exhibits and educational materials about the valley.

## Luluku (Käne'öhe Interchange)

The Windward side contains important wetlands archaeological sites and a heiau.

## Interpretive plan

### Active preservation

The plan for the Luluku side would include the active preservation of sophisticated terraces found in the region. The suggestion is to clear the area, provide trails and interpretation.

### Passive preservation

Like North Hälawa, some sites would be cleared of vegetation but generally left untouched.

### Interpretive center

Signage would be provided

detailing the agricultural and cultural history of the area as well as an interpretive center to be located adjacent to Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden.

## Management

Overall management responsibilities for the plan would be provided by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and supported by the state Department of Transportation.

## Community response

A series of four public meetings were held in February to allow the community an opportunity to hear the proposal and offer comment.

Many at the meetings voiced concern about the interpretive centers, arguing that they did not want to see another state park grow out of the proposals, complete with daytripping sightseers. The point was to make a place for Hawaiians, not tourists. Some participants expressed concern about the interpretive signage, arguing that it should not be included. One suggestion was to have a house for a kahu who would provide some of the interpretation; another was to have signage that provided a variety of interpretation about an area.

The important thing many said was to create a distinctly Hawaiian area, run by Hawaiians for people with a sincere interest in the customs and traditions of the area. The focus would be the active preservation of a culture, not recreation.

The question of access was also a concern. Some mentioned the need for handicap access and access for religious purposes. There was concern that the proposed trail system would interrupt sites, bringing casual visitors into contact with those practicing traditional customs and religion.

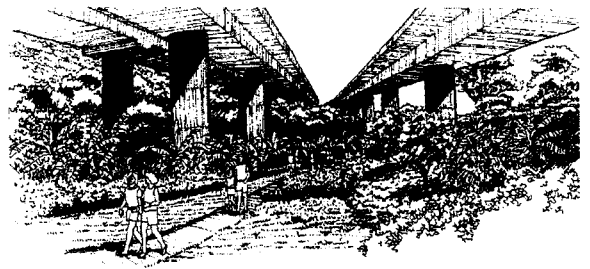
The issue of vegetation was also raised as was the respectful positioning of toilets.

Given the enormous controversy that surrounded the building of the H-3, some suggested that some of the interpretation include Hawaiian opposition to the highway.

Another point brought up was community participation in the process of preparing the draft. Some felt that they were not included enough in the development of the plan and wanted more participation in future revisions. And many wanted to make sure OHA followed up on the plan, creating a site that was well-managed and maintained.

In response to these concerns, OHA staff and trustees plan to work with the community and incorporate some of their ideas into revisions to the draft, said OHA Trustee Kina'u Boyd Kamali'i.

"We want to make something to help rebuild the Hawaiian people... to restore a place of serenity," she said.



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## PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas at a meeting of the Hawaiian Kingdom Trust Company, a general partnership existing under and by virtue of Hawaiian Kingdom law, and having in view the proper authority required and allowed by deeds of trust namely documents #96-000664, #96-004246, #96-006277, #96-014115 and #96-014116, duly registered in the Bureau of Conveyances, it has become necessary to the prosperity of our Kingdom and the proper physical, mental and moral improvement of our beneficiaries, who retain a vested undivided right in all the lands of the Hawaiian Islands, as native Hawaiian subjects, that the necessary steps be taken for the quieting of all land titles in the Hawaiian Islands. Due to the fact that all patents in fee-simple, having originated from the Hawaiian Kingdom government, were subject to the corporate rights of this body politic, it is by the authority vested in the Trust, by the abovementioned deeds, that we are authorized to initiate these necessary steps in accordance to Hawaiian law, as if the Trust is the absentee government.

The Trustees having convened, it was

Resolved, 1st. That Perfect Title Company, a general partnership established and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Hawaiian Kingdom and duly registered in the Bureau of Conveyances as document #95-153346, be chosen to investigate and confirm or reject all claims to land arising after the 10th day of December, A.D. 1845.

2nd. That the same be employed at a compensation to be hereafter determined, derivable solely from the fees and perquisites resulting from the labors of Perfect Title Company.

3rd. That said company be duly sworn to fidelity in the discharge of its duties as such. That it be, and is, hereby authorized to receive claims and evidences for our after consideration, from and after the first publication hereof. That it be required to endorse upon each claim the day and hour of its receipt by the company. That its office is at 850 Richards Street, suite 507, in Honolulu, phone #808-524-4477 and fax #808-524-0771, for the transaction of its duties, and for the facility of claimants. And that it be discharged with keeping all records and proceedings upon claims.

4th. That claims submitted for settlement be taken up and acted upon according to the order of their presentation, and be settled according to order taken in each case by majority in number of Perfect Title Company. Only property where Native Tenants are claiming under their vested right, will be advanced.

5th. That the stated hours of Perfect Title Company be held Monday through Friday, commencing at 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m..

6th. That these resolutions be published in the Pacific Business News, the Ka Wai Ola newspapers, and any other newspaper that circulates throughout the Hawaiian Islands, concurrently with the notice to claimants required by law, to the end that they may be apprised of these by-laws established by the Hawaiian Kingdom Trust Company.

Done at Honolulu, this 3rd day of February, A.D., 1996

(signed) Donald A. Lewis, Trustee

(signed) David Keanu Sai, Trustee

## TO ALL CLAIMANTS OF FEE-SIMPLE TITLES IN THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

Perfect Title Company has been appointed by the Hawaiian Kingdom Trust Company to investigate and confirm or reject all claims of fee-simple titles arising after the 10th day of December, A.D. 1845, in accordance to Hawaiian law. The "articles of agreement" and the "principles" adopted in adjudicating each claim is registered as document #96-016046 in the Bureau of Conveyances, for public viewing.

The company is prepared to hear the parties or their counsel in defense of their titles to lands, and is prepared to receive in writing the claims and evidences (i.e. TMK#, etc.) of fee-simple title which parties may have to offer, at the office of Perfect Title Company. The claimant shall be responsible for the total cost of the investigation.

All persons are required to file with the company by depositing specifications of their fee-simple title(s) to land, and to adduce the evidence upon which they claim title to any land in the Hawaiian Islands, before the expiration of two years from this date; or in default of so doing, they will after that time be forever barred of all right to recover the same in the courts of justice.

Dated this 14th day of February, 1996.

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