

HAWAIIAN PLACE NAMES

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HAWAIIAN
SITES, THEIR LOCATIONS, AND
INTERPRETATION OF THEIR NAMES.

VOLUME 2:1
1987

O'AHU LAND DIVISIONS MOKU / AHUPUA'A



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS/BERNICE PAUHI BISHOP ESTATE - EXTENSION EDUCATION DIVISION - HAWAIIAN STUDIES INSTITUTE

THE DIVISION OF THE LAND

In ancient Hawai'i land was not owned by people, but belonged to the gods. As descendants of the gods, the chiefs governed the use of land. The ruling chief of an island distributed the land among his fellow chiefs, to be managed for them by *konohiki*, or land agents. People living on the land utilized its resources by consent of the district chief. In return, they paid tribute to him with the products of their labor.

On O'ahu, peaceful division of the land occurred about 500 years ago. Three generations later, a ruling chief named Mā'ilikūhāhi had each land division surveyed. Boundaries were set, often using natural features of the land, such as mountain ridges and streams. These boundaries were kept over the centuries and were used each time the lands were redivided among the chiefs.

Contact with the western world greatly changed Hawaii's system of land use. During the *Māhele* of 1848, the lands were divided for private ownership. The older system became obsolete, though many of the original boundaries are still used today in our judicial districts, school districts, and tax districts.

THE UNITS OF THE HAWAIIAN LAND DIVISION SYSTEM

Moku (or *Kalana*) — districts or sections of the island made up of land units called *ahupua'a*.

Ahupua'a — tracts of land extending from the highlands to the sea, and containing forest resources, cultivation areas, and shore and ocean zones. The *konohiki* controlled land use and handled collection of tribute within the *ahupua'a*.

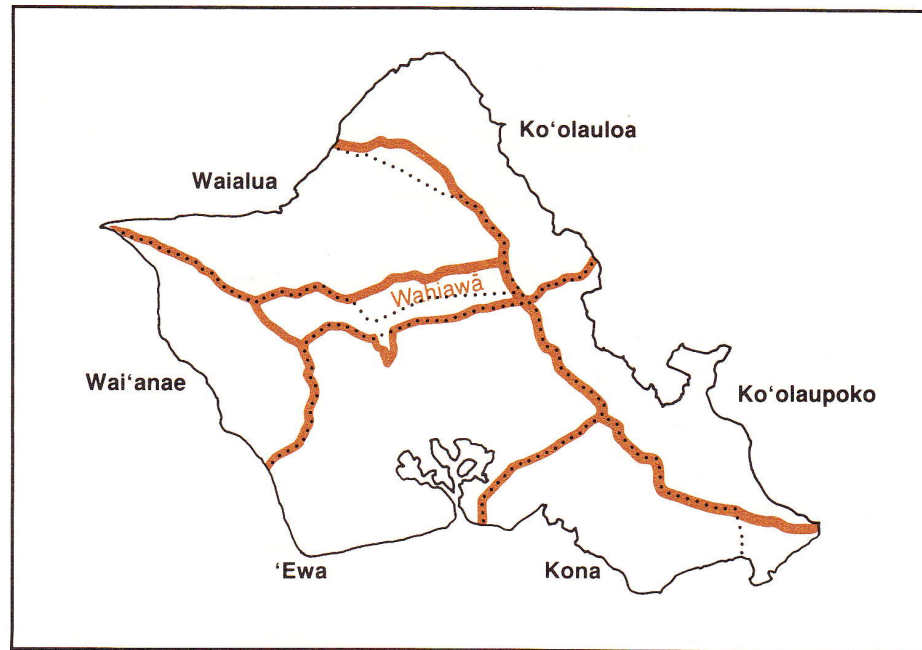
'Ili — sections of the *ahupua'a* allotted to individuals in return for produce and labor. Tribute from *'ili 'āina* was received by the *konohiki* for the chief of the *ahupua'a*. Tribute from *'ili kūpono* was given to the paramount chief of the island.

Lele, Mo'o, Paukū, Kīhāpai, Kō'ele, Pō'alima — lesser divisions within the *ahupua'a*, each paying tribute to its chief.

MODERN CHANGES

In the century following the 1848 *Māhele*, a series of legislated boundary changes were implemented. These changes affected every *moku* (district) of O‘ahu and created a new district called Wahiawā.

The map below shows the early *moku* boundaries (black) overlaid with the district boundaries in use today (brown). The sequence of mandated changes appears under the map.



LEGISLATED BOUNDARY CHANGES

- 1859 - Kona district renamed Honolulu and expanded to include Maunaloa, an *ili* of Waimānalo.
 - 'Ewa and Wai'anae united as one district, 'Ewa.
- 1886 - *Ahupua'a* of Waimea added to Waialua district.
- 1909 - Unincorporated islands added to Honolulu district.
 - Upland portion of Wai'anae added to Waialua.
 - 'Ewa and Wai'anae (minus uplands) separated.

- 1913 - Wahiawā district created with land from Waialua, including upland portion of Wai'anae.
- 1925 - Wahiawā expanded into Waialua and 'Ewa districts.
- 1932 - Wahiawā returned to approximately 1913 bounds.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- He Hoike Honua. Lahainaluna: Mea Pa'i Palapala A Nā Misionari, 1836.
[a geography text published by Hawaiian Mission Press]
- Buke Kakau Paa No Ka Mahele Aina I Hooholoia Iwaena O Kamehameha III
A Me Na Lii A Me Na Konohiki Ana. Honolulu: Hale Ali'i, 1848.
[the government manuscript record of the *Māhele*]
- Survey Division of the Department of Accounting and General Services.
[a map resource center for the State of Hawai'i]

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SPECIAL PREFACE TO VOLUME 2:1

O'AHU LAND DIVISIONS

This pamphlet is a continuation of the Hawaiian Place Names series initiated in 1986 with volume 1:1, Pohukaina. Subscription to this series is available at no cost to educators and resource institutions. The pamphlets are accessible to the general public through libraries and schools statewide. This issue follows the established format, with left margin and right-hand fold to allow use of a three-ring binder.

O'ahu Land Divisions introduces a replacement for the map used in volume 1:1, Pohukaina. The first map showed the location of ahupua'a on O'ahu, but contained inaccuracies that have been perpetuated since the time of the Māhele in 1848. To correct these inaccuracies, subsequent research was undertaken on the number, names, and locations of ahupua'a on O'ahu. This pamphlet is a product of that research and will be used as a reference for future place name pamphlets for the island of O'ahu.

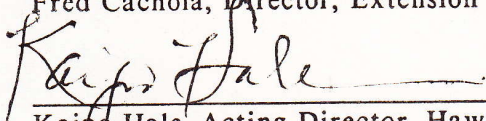
O'ahu Land Divisions presents a reconstruction of the traditional land division system that existed on O'ahu prior to the Māhele. By compiling existing survey records, the boundaries of each ahupua'a on the island have been mapped for the first time. Estimated boundaries, where necessary, are noted. Unrecorded pre-contact or early post-contact changes in the system may be reflected in this reconstruction, but changes recorded during and after the Māhele have been excluded.

The material presented in this pamphlet is drawn from pre-Māhele accounts, manuscript records and surveys of the Māhele process, court records, post-Māhele historic accounts, and oral traditions. The pamphlet is a summary and contains no footnotes or complete list of sources. A detailed account of the research project, with a complete bibliography of the sources used, is being prepared for publication.

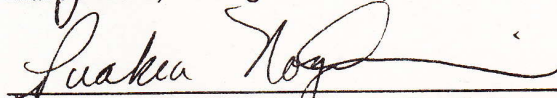
The following individuals and institutions warrant special thanks for sharing information and supporting the research on this project: Charles Okino, Survey Division of the Department of Accounting and General Services; Dorothy Barrère, researcher and scholar; J. Cline Mann, surveyor; Lee Motteler, geographer; Lynn Criss Fujita, graphic artist; Bishop Museum Library; Hawai'i State Archives; Hawaiian and Pacific Collection of the Hamilton Library, U. H. Mānoa; Hawaiian Mission Children's Society Library; Hawaiian Historical Society Library.



Fred Cachola, Director, Extension Education Division



Kaipo Hale, Acting Director, Hawaiian Studies Institute



Puakea Nogelmeier, Resource Specialist,
Resource and Development Component, Hawaiian Studies Institute



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