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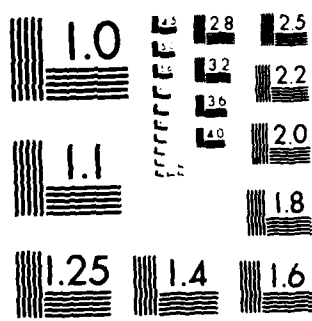
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KAMAOLE BEACH PARK, MAUI:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE

Prepared for:

U. S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, HONOLULU
Contract No. DACW84-81-M-0213

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Prepared by:

William Barrera, Jr.

CHINIAGO INC.
76 North King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96717

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INTRODUCTION

An archaeological reconnaissance survey was conducted at Kamaole Beach Park, Maui Island (Figure 1), for the purpose of determining the nature of archaeological and historical remains that might be impacted by erosion control measures being considered by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. The survey area, which consists of approximately 4500 feet of shoreline, is located on the west coast of east Maui, immediately south of Kihei (Figure 2).

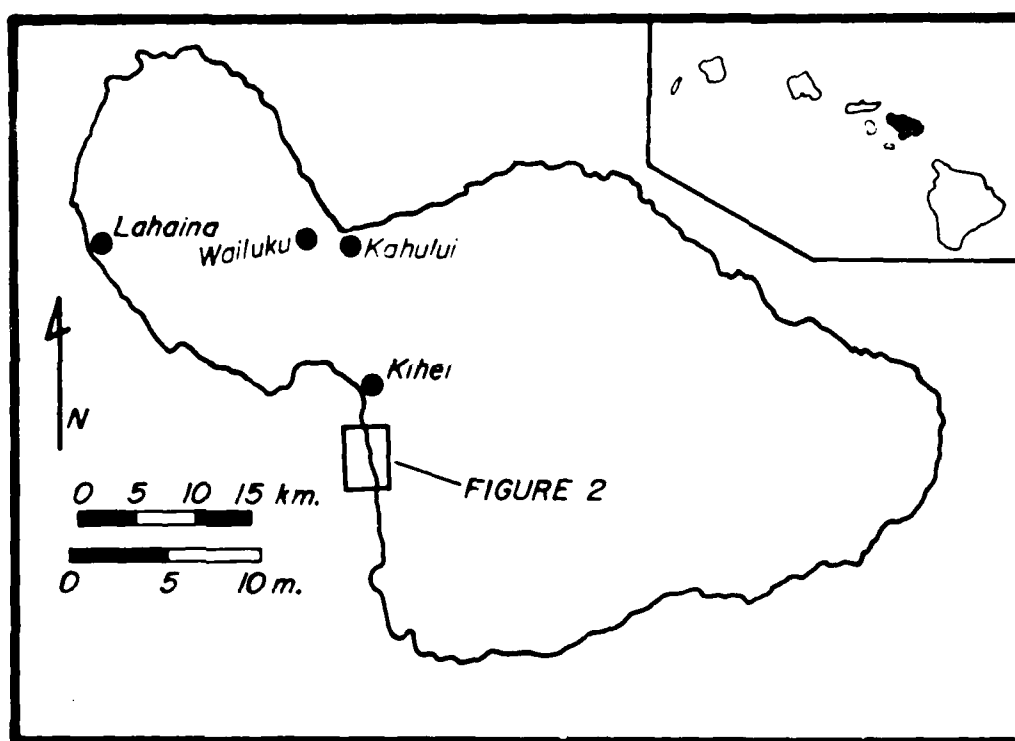


Figure 1. Map of Maui, Showing Location of Survey Area.

The area receives only about 10 inches of rainfall annually as a result of its position on the lee side of the island. Erosion of the beach by southerly winter storm waves represents a serious problem. Vegetation consists primarily of historically introduced species, the most common of which are xiawe (Prosopis pallida), ironwood (Casuarina equisetifolia) and monkeypod (Samanea saman). Hala (Pandanus sp.), coconut (Cocos nucifera), naupaka (Scaevola taccada), heliotrope (Messer-

schmidia argentea) and hau (Hibiscus tiliaceus) are the most common of the native species.

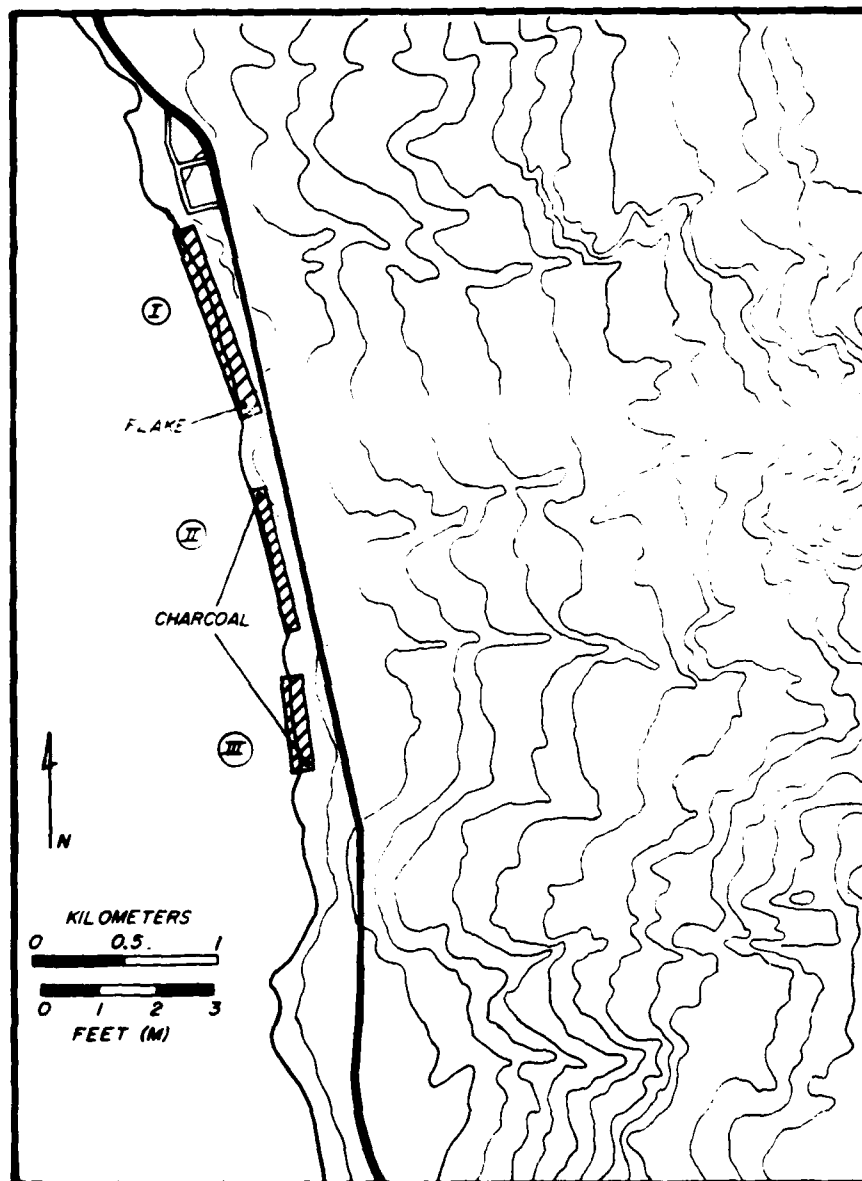


Figure 2. Survey Areas, Showing Locations of Cultural Remains.
Contour Interval = 20 feet
(Roman Numerals Distinguish the Three Kamaole Beach Parks)



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PLACE NAMES

A usually excellent source of Maui place names, "Ke Alaia o Maui" (Ashdown 1971), unfortunately has no information for the Kamaole Beach Park areas. However, an excellent recent study of Maui County beaches is a valuable source of such information, and below we quote directly from that publication.

"Kama'ole is said to have been a spring from which a land division, a large ranch, a section of Hawaiian homesteads, and three beach parks took their name. Kama'ole means 'childless,' but the origin of the name is now unknown" (Clark 1980: 44).

"The right point of Kama'ole III Beach Park was once known as Kalaehuku, and this name included the sand beach as well. The rocky left half of the park's shoreline was called Ana'iao, for an inlet where large schools of 'iao, a popular bait fish, congregated" (Ibid: 44).

"When the sand disappears from the beach at Kama'ole II, a large bed of shingle is exposed, and as the waves surge and recede across these rounded beach rocks, or 'ili'ili, an ominous rumbling results. The Hawaiians called this beach 'Ili'ilinolo, "running pebbles," for this unpredictable and dramatic phenomenon" (Ibid: 45).

"Kalua'ehakoko, 'the hole (of) bleeding injuries,' is the shoreline area that includes both the sand beach at Kama'ole I and the wide, rocky point to the right of the beach. The public boat ramp at the right end of the point is known as Kalua'ehakoko Boat Ramp. The name refers to the catching of akule in the ocean offshore and the bleeding of the netted fish" (Ibid: 45).

Clark also mentions a World War II concrete pillbox near the south end of Kamaole Beach Park I, but only a few disjointed concrete slabs now remain of that structure.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Recent archaeological work in the Kihei area has been summarized by Cordy:

"Other than very general walk-throughs in the early part of this century (Walker 1931) and recent very general statements about areas endangered by development (Emory and Hommon 1972), no archeology was done in the Kihei area until the 1970's. Since 1970 three archeological projects have occurred--(1) contract archeology in the Wailea Development Corporation properties (Kirch 1969, 1970a, 1970b, 1971; Barrera 1974; Cleghorn 1975), (2) contract archeology for the State Department of Transportation's proposed Piilani Highway (Walton 1972; Cox 1975), and (3) the State Historic Preservation Office's inventory of known and historic archeological sites. The contract archeology involved survey of a number of sites and resulted in excavation of a few of the sites. At present only three sites have been dated....The Wailea Development Corporation's archaeological studies are in the coastal and lower barren zones of Paaahu, Palaua, and Keaunou ahupua'a. The highway corridor projects occurred in two areas. One was in the middle barren zones of Palaua and Keaunou land units (Walton 1972). The other extends across the lower barren zones of Kihei from Pulehunui ahupua'a to Kamaole ahupua'a" (Cordy 1977: 6).

Cordy's reconnaissance survey for the Kihei Flood Control Project of the Corps of Engineers located an additional 38 sites (Ibid: 53-4). Site types represented in these various projects include fishponds, platforms, stone walls, cairns, mua (men's house), possible burials, heiau (temple), lava bubble shelters, and various sorts of historic sites.

No regional synthesis has as yet been produced for the Kihei area, and the scarcity of definitive excavations makes it difficult to discuss the question with any degree of confidence. There is of course no doubt that the area was utilized in prehistoric times, but the details are not known.

THE SURVEY

The present project was undertaken to determine the presence or absence of significant archaeological and historical sites that might be impacted by erosion controls being considered by the Corps of Engineers for Kamaole Beach Parks I, II and III. The survey consisted of visual observations of the edge of the eroding beach deposit. Fresh sections of the wave-cut terrace were exposed and faced with a trowel at intervals of one to three meters and inspected for cultural remains. Evidence of human activity thereby encountered consisted only of two concentrations of charcoal and a basaltic glass flake.

One of the charcoal concentrations, which had been previously noted as a possible hearth by personnel of the State Historic Preservation Office, was located in a dune face at the north end of Kamaole Beach Park II. Because it contained quantities of carbonized kiawe (Prosopis juliflora) beans and neither midden nor artifacts were observed anywhere in the vicinity, it is certain that this feature is of very recent age. Another concentration of charcoal fragments which had been noted by the State Historic Preservation Office representative near this location was searched for, but could not be found.

The other charcoal concentration is at the south end of Kamaole Beach Park III, and consists of ash and fragments of carbonized wood located at a depth of 28 centimeters below the surface. It in no way resembles a firepit, which would usually be basin-shaped in cross-section, but rather seems to follow the contours of an old beach foreslope, slanting toward the ocean. One of the charcoal fragments still contains a non-carbonized woody section, confirming its recent age. Had the specimen been of even moderate antiquity, this woody portion would have long since deteriorated.

The basaltic glass flake was found lying on the sand surface near the base of an eroding dune face at the south end of Kamaole Beach park I. The vicinity was thoroughly inspected, but no other cultural materials of any kind were found. The presence of this isolated artifact could represent anything from a single prehistoric event to the recent deposition of fill materials originating in an area where a site had been located. The absence of any archaeological context for the specimen renders it of minor significance.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No in situ archaeological or historical remains that would interfere with erosion control measures of the Corps of Engineers were found in the project area . There is the possibility that such remains might be located either inland of the exposed sand face or deeper in the ground than its base, but we feel that the probabilities of these are so slight that the project may proceed with no further archaeological research required at this time. If any archaeological or historical materials should happen to be uncovered during construction activities, construction should of course stop immediately and an archaeologist be notified.

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