

Interview 1 with Gabriel Kealoha and Sara Hauanio in Pahoia
3/29/99
Tape 1 Side A

CL: So you were saying you started [picking `opihi] in about 1952?

GK: Yeah, 1952 we had about six people. That's my mother, my father-in-law, myself, my wife, my brother-in-law, and also my good friend, is Ernest Kahana. And we went to Punalu'u and had these people living there, elderly people, the husband is Filipino but he can speak in Hawaiian. And the wife is a elderly woman.

CL: Do you remember their name?

GK: Bangay [Pele Hanoa's parents].

CL: Oh yeah, I know that family.

GK: Well these elderly people was there so my father-in-law inquire about if any people has animal. And he say no, we have. They have an animal and they have one mule, a big mule and one horse. But the walking we can do we can, we were so young we can do the walking. And so the first thing we start going to, went straight to Papalehau, that's what they call it, Papalehau. And that's the first point we start getting opihi.

CL: So you walked from Punalu'u?

GK: Yeah, from Punalu'u to Papalehau, right in the coastline. And they have a trail, old trail and we reached there. So we stayed there about only for that day. And man they was so lots of opihi, lots of opihi. I never seen that, seen opihi like that. And so all of us, we start pounding opihi. But everybody make so many bags so we came out about 1,000 about 1,400 pounds. And the mule carry most of the load. And the horse carry too but my father-in-law has to ride one horse too. He cannot walk that far. And so that day my father-in-law say, how we going take all this stuff out? That's so many miles away. Well I figure maybe about we reach, I don't know how many miles but maybe 7 or 6 miles and that's my estimation. So he know something about that area, he knows lot about that area too. They do a lot of goat corralling in those days and he remember has one trail going up [from] Papalehau. Come out to Kapapala. So we did, we follow the trail went go out. And so we reach out with all that opihi, that 1,400 pounds and leave all the opihi on the side of the road so me and my father-in-law, my father-in-law ride the horse, I ride the mule so we got down to Punalu'u get the truck. And the truck we have, it's a small truck. It's about ? a ton. How can 1,400 pounds going on the truck and 6 people? We did manage. And so we took all the opihi down to used to be Kimura Store, fish market.

CL: In Hilo?

GK: Yeah. That's where Suisan's auction block is. And they have that restaurant right there. That's where Kimura Store was. So we asked him if he wanted to take, oh yeah. When he came out and saw the opihi said, wow. He give us 10? a pound. So my father-in-law said, well I cannot do business with you. So we took all the 1,400 pound to the ice house to freeze it. And one of the people down there, the employees, said, oh where you get all this opihi from? I tell em, we get em from Ka'u. Wow. I never seen opihi like this before. But we no mention that. But when you go pick opihi you don't say nothing. Just keep it to yourself. And so he recommend us to this person, Johnny Fong. He used to work in the Electric Light Company. And he's the person that collect payments, people who are delinquent in their bills. So he call him up and he came down. Oh he's kind of young man. He said, oh I like opihi. And he has business too in Honolulu. So he took that opihi from us, 25? a pound. That's all he give us.

CL: Was that a good price in those days or not?

GH: Well 25? is good price. But 10?, that's too low. So afterwards we been going over to Ka'u and then we have to borrow the animals, the Bangay animals. And then we made a couple hundred. Then we bought some animal from this person used to be Hilo. His name is Rawl but I don't know the first name. And I bought two animals, two mules. So from that time I started going to get opihi in Ka'u. But when I think about it, I know my mother used to be picking opihi when she was young, when my father pass away, 1935. So some way, 1937, my mother take me with her, she go make opihi. In case anything, no problem like that or happen like that, then I'm there so can call for help.

CL: You were young already.

GH: Oh yeah, I was young. I think eight years old or seven something. But I never think that I going be the opihi man. So I always think about my mother. My mother is the first teach me how to opihi because I always go with her. When I come little bit older, she always yell at me. Tell me Gabriel, Gabriel. But she call me Sonny instead of Gabriel. Sonny, watch out the wave, the wave. And when the wave come real closer and then rock, big old rocks, go right by the rocks and hide myself and then the wave pass over. And she get angry, get nervous. That's why she wanted me to be with her. That's how I learn. Pick opihi, watch the water, how the wave going pound. All that life, eleven years, I've been opihi. Only one incident I had a problem was my knee. My knee was couldn't function that good. Got stuck, lock, that's the only problem I had. Most of the time I go. And sometimes we go to pound opihi in Ka'u, not always good weather. Sometime rough because the opihi come out rough water.

CL: Oh they do?

GK: Yeah they all come out. But we always think about the tide. And once we think about the tide, then we get advantage for pick opihi when come high tide, no good stay out. That dangerous. But there are other people, they ask me if they can come with me. I say, oh yeah you can come. Three boys. But when they came over and see the place they shake their head, all this cliff, we go down? Tell uh-huh. But how you going go down? I tell tie the rope. How you going tie it? In the crack. They so afraid. We tell em, no worry. When I go down first, then you follow. I always be the first go down. And I always be the last go up. So they can pick the `opihi up with the rope and come. Sometime I go by myself. My mother doesn't come. I just go. I never wait because I believe that, I never wait for nobody. And sometime I go hunting.

CL: For goat?

GK: Goats, yeah. That's for home use. Home use, fishing, throw net, ulua and sometimes I bring home pupu, lots of pupu, opihi, feed the family. Sometimes I know one day the water was so fine, no wind, clear sky, so I take me about two hours, I bring about 400 pounds. Then I bring all the four bags, I had one big barley bag, that's over 400 pounds. And bring all that opihi back to the, had one cave so put all the opihi over there. And then I didn't see my animal. Then I have to walk eleven miles back, eleven miles back to Punalu'u and get my animal. But the rope was still dragging. So the only thing I brought is, home, I brought my saddle too. I brought my saddle, everything, walk all the way out, take my animals, but was evening already, kind of dark so I tell em, we wait in the morning then we start go. So what I did, I slept with a horse blanket, it's kinda smell but cannot do nothing about it. And I stayed until morning, early in the morning, saddle up and then I went and we trucked all the way so can make the, before I make the low tide, so I get time to peel the opihi, poke the opihi.

CL: Where was that at that time? Where was the opihi at that time?

GK: This one is the other place. I forgot the name. That rock, near the pointed rock in the ocean closer to Papalehau. That's about maybe about one mile, three quarter mile or something like that. [See p. 12. We decided the rock island was at P~palehau.]

CL: Which side of P~palehau?

GK: Volcano side.

CL: `Opihinehe?

GK : `Opihinehe way in.

CL: Not that far.

GK: No.

CL: Kā`??, Waiwelawela? That's the only names I know. Let's see what I got here [on the map]. I got P~palehau here, so it's on this side of Papalehau eh? Toward Kalapana side.

GK: Yeah, yeah. Right here some place. Papalehau, some place over here. Get one rock, in a island, not rock, an island just like one sharp pinnacle. But I don't know if that pinnacle still yet there.

CL: Had a name, that place?

GK: Can't remember the name.

CL: I don't think anybody knows that name anymore. Cause I talk to lots of people but they don't know too many names down there.

GK: I know, my father-in-law, he know the place. But this somewhere in the point you know. I think we came over here, that's the last place I bring the two boys, I think some place over in here was. I think right here, a small point here. Because we cannot see this place over here.

CL: Yeah you can't see up to `Opihinehe.

GK: And we come to Naliikakani Point here, we come over here. I don't know where the cinder hill is. That cinder hill is something. You come over here the last point. Some people from Kalapana, Kanaela Kamelamela, he goes over too. He come right in this area and Dan kamelamela and Konanui, that's from, Oulu Konanui, all these people came over there. Before that we see the `opihi shells, the `opihi shell over there so we know people came. And afterwards, then we came so we leave some poke. We stayed maybe two, three days. And one day or two days, then we poke the rest and bring home fresh.

CL: The poke it and then you put it in salt?

GK: Yeah, we salt. We have a cracker can or some kind of round can. I don't know what they made of, I can't remember, but we was using that and the cracker can and sometime I make about maybe 18 gallons or 20 gallons for couple days. Then come home. Before we come home then we pick fresh kind, about 150 pounds. That's enough.

CL: You poke that too yeah?

GK: No. We sell that in the shell because the shell they have lots of seaweed on it so they preserve the freshness of the `opihi. And we call up Johnny Fong, tell em we got some `opihi, tell okay. So the fresh one you sell em right away. People like it. Sometime we pick em the half a dollar, quarter size, the small we don't pick it, just leave it alone. But takes us eleven years, the opihi still get, coming back, coming back. And today you don't see. Because I know couple years back, I think the '80's I think was, we went down by boat to get some opihi. You don't see that much opihi. The new ones come out. You don't see the big ones. I guess these people don't know how to manage the resource. If you don't touch least couple months, the opihi come back. But if you going to the same place every week, going wipe it out. And I think we should get some kind of regulation to manage the opihi. I know people like opihi. But before that, we were in Ka'u and we need some fresh one, we pick maybe hundred pounds, then my father-in-law go up from Ka'u, he go sell it. And he sell in lunch can. Get two partition, one top and low. And he fill that lunch can, 25?. That's cheap before, 25?. And whatever money he get, then he buy cracker, coffee, cigarette or whatever, rice or something like that.

CL: This is before you went or, when he was selling these in Ka'u?

GK: Yeah but only short while. Afterwards I go my own, on my own. I get my license, fishing license, commercial license, grocing kind, I get all my licanse so I do business. And every year I have to go to Department of Health to take some x-ray cause I'm handling food. So that's a law before. But today I don't know.

CL: How long did your mother, I guess I should ask you what your father-in-law's name was. What's your father-in-law's name?

GK: Thomas Makuakane.

CL: So that's your wife's father.

GK: Yeah, my wife's father.

CL: And your mother was not, at that time you were going your mother was not married?

GK: No. But my father-in-law and my mother was staying together. And my father-in-law passed 1960. So for eleven years, I've been going on opihi, pounding opihi, no, that's a steady income. And for the price of that time, by this time, I asked now, I think you should raise. So we get 45? a pound and poke for one gallon \$18 for one gallon. I think real good business, no? If I can make 18 gallon or 20 gallons for couple days, why not? And he's buying wholesale, everything. He don't say I don't want a certain

pound or I want certain pound. No he buy everything. So I tell em, okay. So that time, well I guess maybe the price maybe stable, I don't know it's stable or what. But it provides me and the family see, food, whatever. Sometime we have to buy car, I buy. I pay my bill. And sometime the family have problem, tell oh they need money. I say, how much you want? Oh I like \$500. Tell em okay I give the \$500. And they say bumbi we reimburse but never did. So they having hard time, well that's all right. My sister went out too. I think bout couple times she went, but that time she has knee problem too.

CL: What about your other sister, Elsie?

GK: Elsie. Yeah she go. But most time her, our mother and I, most time we go. See, she has to pay back the loan boy. And she did all right. They making money and I know I made about 300 pounds. I did everything. I pull it up, and come back, back and forth, that's what I do. But my mother and my sister, they go for the easier place so they can, like easy for them. But I go the hardest place where get most opihi like that.

CL: How often would you go?

GK: Sometime every week. Once the ocean rough, I going go. She real rough, no. That way people cannot make `opihi. But sometime, all depend what kind of rough is. If there is like full moon then the water come more high and the tide sometime come more low. But most time I go the new moon, after the new moon. The tide more long. And sometime the tide come more high.

CL: It comes high, it also comes more low yeah? So maybe that's good.

GK: Yeah. But there are places you can hide and you cannot hide. And sometimes dangerous. Sometimes you go there, well we don't go this place we go where the place where you would think no, find shelter we can hide from the wave. And learn how the ocean, how the wave come in so that way you don't have any problems. Most I learned that way. I learn about the moon, the tide, and my father-in-law teach me about the moon, let's see, Hilo, Hoaka, Kā, Kālua, Kākolu, Kāpau, and the `ole, and then come Huna, HÇkã, all. But this I learn before. Now it's kind of a little bit fading away, see?

Side B

GK: How to find the moon phase. Then you get the direct number of the moon, of the Hawaiian moon. And he teach me that and I follow that but I don't depend on the calendar, this calendar here. I don't depend on that. But I look the date, that's the only important thing, the date. That's the same thing, according to

the dates and what I could is try in harmony.

CL: So you start with Hilo? Is that day that's good to go?

GK: Um-hm. Hilo, Hoaka, then Kā, Kulua, Kākolū, Kāpau. So that's four phasee of moon. Then `ole.

CL: You still go in the `ole? Is it still good to go for opihi in n~ `ole?.

GK: Yeah. `Ole, most people, the elders, kupuna say `ole not that good. They say no more, no more `opihi. But my great-granduncle, he used to work for the State, the Park, down Brown Park. When he has day off he go on that moon. So I asked him, I tell em, oh the kupuna said no more `opihi. He tell me, moopuna, `a`ole pololoi. He say that's not right. I say why not? When rough time, when rough, all the `opihi come up. N~ `ole, the evening tide that, all the `opihi come up. He no go low. He stay the evening tide, same place, same level. It doesn't go up, it doesn't go low. That's when the `opihi come up. So sometime I disagree. But most time I go Ka'u, I do what he say. He tell me _____. But that area, people doesn't go. But this area, people go. They always going.

CL: Kalapana side you mean.

GK: Yeah Kalapana. And I know most people go down there is, most time is Gabriel, Gabriel Pe'a. He's the only person go down there os seem. And remember the incident happen. He go down there and here this ranger Cummins see em. Sir, what are you doing here? I'm going to pick `opihi. Sir, only Hawaiian people are allow. But I'm Hawaiian. I'm sorry, you are a white man.

CL: He has blue eyes? Like Haleola.

GK: Yeah. That's the brother. So I know that Wingate was the superintendent at that time. And he came home, he call up, he call up Park, he tell Wingate, say one of your workman he tell me, your ranger tell me for get out. Tell you not supposed to be in here. You not Hawaiian, you haole. Tell yeah, yeah, yeah. When the ranger mention about his name he said, Pe`a, tell em, hey that's our employee that. Why you send him. I don't know. That's the only person down here he always go opihi and he sell to Hilo. But he was ahead before then me, see. I was in '52. He was before me there. And I remember, in the '40's, '46, '47, '48. '45 I think, after the war. It's somewhere in October or November. So we went down, Kekaha, with Jack Hamili his name. Thomas Makuakane, my father-in-law and also Thomas' sons, they went, and I went. The Kahana family, Kahana boy went. Hoh the `opihi. I tell em, that's first time I see. But I was young that time see. And first time I see down there. But we pick the opihi

for Reginal Ho wedding party. And Jack Hamili, he's the one make the party for his wedding, Reginal Ho. The opihi, laulau, crab, raw fish or whatever. And we made the party at the Pahoia gym. Was great party. And most of us we were young, rascal. Not that much, good boys. Tell em, Hey, you know what, you stay outside the window, I go pass out you something. Tell me, okay. Hey what you guys doing here? Caught us. Bring them back.

CL: What you were passing out?

GK: I was the one passing out.

CL: What?

GK: Beer. So I remember that.

CL: The time you came from the Kalapana side. You came from the Kalapana side to go Kekaha yeah, that time?

GK: Yeah, Kekaha. But they teach us how to preserve the opihi. I think some poke though down there, put salt. But some they like for us too eh. And so I learned something from our kupuna. They teach us throw net, and all kind. Torching nighttime and

CL: When you went that time, where all did you go? Did you go Apua?

GK: `Apua.

CL: Maybe you don't know those names down that side.

GK: Well I know, because I know we call that place Mahuka, e get one cross, pipe cross on the side of the, it's like a cliff but there's no water but instead land. And its like a slope you go down like this and then it go further out. It's like a small point, and then the ocean. And you get one, they call that place Mahuka. I know people die over there. So I don't know how many. I think only that person. But for eleven years we go to pick opihi over there, nothing happen to me because every time I listen to kupuna, my mother, watch the ocean, learn how the wave come in. You learn about that. So that way you can save yourself.

CL: Let me look at this. I think I saw that name. Yeah here's Mahuka. This is the one you're talking about?

GK: Mahuka, yea. That is only small bay.

CL: Was that a place for opihi too?

GK: Oh yeah. Get `opihi but dangerous, dangerous place. Had one high cliff, but I never go there, I never go. Too high. My rope too short.

CL: So when you came from Punalu'u, that's how you usually came?

GK: Umhum. Right here you have that coast strip, we follow all the way here.

CL: So you never bothered to pound opihi along this area?

GK: Kamehame yeah. Kamehame we stay over here but we go here, then we come back. And here got fresh water. Not fresh water, brackish water. So we dig on the sand we get brackish water. So we use the brackish water for coffee, for rice, for cleaning or something, or for drinking like that.

CL: But do you pound opihi there?

GK: Oh yeah. But then more people come here, get plenty people. Short the distance. We see they come. But most time we come over farther, most time all the way. But eleven years and some were in this area, over here get flat area and get good limu, good limu you know where it's brackish over there, fresh water. Over here most the opihi, people when they pass, they cannot see. But I can, I know get opihi over there.

CL: Over toward Palima Point.

GK: Yeah. Right here, this place [just west of Palima Point]. And sometime we park over here, camp here. And get one stone, stone wall and we camp over there, we poke. And we go down, dig one hole, when the tide go down we go dig the hole, get all the rocks out, the sand all out, then when the tide come up then you have brackish water, the brackish water coming up. But this area more fresh. It's more fresh water. And sometime we, before we go in, we sleep down Punalu'u by the pavilion. But those days wasn't have any pavilion there but we used that brackish water for coffee. And some tourists they stop by tell em ask them oh you want coffee? Oh yes, thank you. We gave them coffee. And they drank it and oh, this coffee's delicious. But they never know that's brackish water. But I know brackish water is good for coffee.

CL: So you would camp in here, sometimes you would camp here and would you camp over this side to, over toward ...

GK: Papalehau yeah we camp there [actually meant Waiwelawela].

CL: Is there

GK: Get a cave over there.

CL: Okay. What about this place Waiwelawela, or not? You don't know that name?

GK: Waiwelawela, yeah I think Waiwelawela that's name, not

Papalehau. Papalehau that's the rock. And then Waiwelawela, you get one what you call that, hole you go down, and you get some bucket or gallon then we dig the brackish water. But warm. That's Waiwelwela.

CL: So the cave that you stayed in.

GK: Yeah get one cave over there. But small cave. That cave about like this, about my neck. Get one cave. And then you can camp over there or whatever you want to do. And we have some small wall, a stone wall where you can sleep there or camp over there, whatever you want to do.

CL: Like old house foundations maybe?

GK: Well I guess so, maybe. But I don't know.

CL: So what about in between here, before you get to Waiwelawela [from Kamehame]? Was there places to pound opihi in here too?

GK: Oh yeah, I always get. I always go there. But mostly I go at Mahuka. Before Mahuka, all this place, area, all high cliff, all high cliff. I know one time, but we never go over there but anyway, I go check. My wife, my sister and I. So I went down alone, oh opihi, hoh, lots of opihi. Had one big rock, flat rock all opihi. I saw it, close, and good size. So I tell em, I'm going down. So my sister and my wife, I don't know how they came down but they did. They came down, so I went the other side for pound. I came back, I look, what, how you? I thought you folks not going make em. You think only you going pick the opihi? They tell me like make money. But they came back behind me until they wipe up all that, the one I miss. Even the small one they picking. I tell, why don't you leave the small one? Pick the big ones. Opihi's opihi, we going take em all out. And they did, came down. That's about 30 feet high.

CL: So you had to climb down? Or you had a rope?

GK: Climb down. Had a rope. I always bring rope, find a crack, make a knot and put the knot right over by the crack. And then follow crack and then dump the rope down. So I went down first. And when pound opihi down there so I told them, you folks go up first. You stay up there. No, no, tell em, I going up first. You folks stay below. But I going to show you how to tie the opihi. So I show them how to tie. You make one loop, and then you make the bag up, you tie around below here and then you put the rope right in the end, put right here, can't come out. So that way the rope come tight underneath. So that way they don't come up. So they died, they found nothing happened. i think we had about four bags over there.

CL: In that one place?

GK: One place. Lots of opihi, lots. So when I heard people talking about opihi, I tell em, gee, with the opihi price now I think today I be a millionaire. They sell one gallon and see the important part is I let people know, just leave some, take some, don't take all. You see the size, leave em alone. If you go there another six months and you come back, the opihi come big one time. But that's the problem I have, eleven years and the opihi still.

CL: So you could go every week through here and pound the same places?

GK: No. I don't go the same place.

CL: Oh, different places.

GK: Different places. If I'm over here, let's say I go step by step. And over here, I go next one, I go next one. If it take me about six months, go to that area, again come back again. Because you cannot take opihi. Usually I take about maybe one, two or three days, that's all. I don't stay for one week. The animals need food too see. And sometime you pick some grass, take with us. And a certain amount we give them. But that's the only incident I had when the animal went back to Punalu'u, that's happen when I was there.

CL: So what about water for the animals?

GK: Brackish. But we feed em first before we go. We know the area doesn't have any water. But we go stay maybe one day, then we come back.

CL: So they can go for a day. Did you, like if got to Waiwelawela, could you give em the brackish water there?

GK: Yeah, brackish water, but warm.

CL: Was there other places that you know where you could get water? I think you were saying this place, Kamehame you were saying.

GK: Yeah Kamehame has, I know Palima point has. I know someplace over here.

CL: But between Palima point and Waiwelawela...

GK: Yeah, but over here more cool, but this one more warm.

CL: But no other place inside here?

GK: No, it's all high cliff. But this area low area.

CL: At Waiwelawela.

GK: Yeah, maybe I would say eleven feet, ten feet. So we can go down but has a hole we go down.

CL: So in between this area where there's high cliff, was there any place you pounded in there?

GK: Yeah.

CL: But you have to go down the high cliff?

GK: Yeah, it's more height. And this area too. But over here I go, cliff inland, the inland has cliff and out Just like they're flat. It's about maybe 16 feet high. And then when come the outside and then the cliff come up, high cliff.

CL: Oh, so you could pound all in here then.

GK: Yeah. I can pound in here but I go down here with a rope. All we do, go this area and then come back. See the thing is, that's how many years over there. That's 1962. I'm really a commercial fisherman. I go out fishing. Same time I go pick up opihi. Put most time I go opihi. Opihi is more economical. You don't pay too much expense. Fishing you have to pay. That's a lot of expense.

CL: You talking about going by boat?

GK: Sometime we go by boat yeah. Go by boat and ? though sometime if the water good, anchor the boat, I swim up. I go pound opihi. But still hard work. Hard work when you go by boat. Plus dangerous too. I know some people we took them, I took them to this area, go down to Elemakule or some place, Elemakule and they pound opihi. So go pick them up and throw the rope to them. Well the wind start coming in already, so throw the rope to them. So I drop the anchor down, hold the boat, throw the rope to them, pull the opihi inside, so when the people come in, so come to the boat, some they hang on the opihi bag. Tell, no, no, no. You let go. I cannot swim. We have to pull the rope fast enough so he won't drown. But we don't know that he cannot swim.

CL: Can't swim at all?

GK: Yeah, he cannot swim. I said, you should tell me first place so you don't have to go up. But he say he don't want go stay on the boat because he's got sick. Lots of people I took down. And sometimes the other boats took them down.

CL: You let em off at `Elemakule or at `Opihinehe?

GK: `Elemakule.

CL: There's a place you can get on there?

GK: Umhum. Sometime we come way down here Papalehau. Then you take Papalehau. Sometime you lucky you get, sometime you don't have that much.

CL: You know I think it's Papalehau where that little island is. I think that's, you know you were talking about the place with the little island. I think that's Papalehau.

GK: Yeah, right, Papalehau. Because the rock shaped like a, the ridge has a pinnacle or something, the shape like that. Maybe that's why the Papalehau. I didn't hear my father-in-law mention about that. But he mentioned Papalehau but he doesn't show where is Papalehau. But when you said where Waiwelawela, now I understand.

CL: So how did you father-in-law know this place? Did he come from Ka'u?

GK: No, information. The people, old timers know from here. Tell the story about opihi. My father-in-law is more the kind business man. When he see something can provide something, he will use it, his knowledge, to get opihi. But before that we do that, pound opihi but not as commercial. But we pound for family use.

CL: So he hadn't been in this area? He just heard about it?

GK: Yeah, he'd been the area. He followed this, they call his name Keawe [must be Kauwe according to Jeanette Howard] from Pahala. They always together. But they was young that time. They always together. With goat-hunting, opihi or fishing like that. They always together. That's why that he know this area so much. He has family in the Ka'u area too, see?. We get cousins. Well, he's a man, he always make money, but doesn't pay his bill. He always that way. He's a nice man. And for eleven years I learned how to manage the resource. If you want to make money, you have to manage the resource. The same principle as fishing. Fishing same principle. And if you don't manage the resource, you won't get nothing. That's why now today, the fisherman now today, they having hard time. And I believe that. And I remember that when I go out fishing, I always come in with something. Ahi, maybe menpachi, deep-sea, k~`ili, deep-sea is kaka see, and k~`ili is the bottom fish, shallow bottom fish. Menpachi is night fishing, kawele`~, all that, palu`ahi and night fishing, tuna.

CL: You were doing all that from the boat from Pohiki?

GK: Yeah. But before that, we don't have any ramp. We use log or bamboo, ohia or coconut leaves. We put em on the mound then slide our boat down.

CK: You remember those days too?

GK: Oh yeah.

CL: At Pohiki or at `Opihikao?

GK: Pohiki. `Opihikao I have to ask permission. We don't own the land. The owner own the land.

Tape 2, Side A

GK: I know when we start Pohoiki, fishing, I start one small boat. Fourteen, the biggest is sixteen and the lowest was smaller. It's 10 horse. The biggest horsepower is 24 horse. So we having a hard time, we have to use somebody property to launch our boat.

CL: What property?

GK: Someone's property at Pohoiki. That property belongs to AMFAC but it was lease under Hale family. So some kind of trade, I think, agreement. So I fishing and we having problems with our boat. Sometimes we used to launch our boat out and hit the rocks and puncture. You get hole. We cannot go out so we have to put em back, and repair. So we came around and all that kind of problems so I don't know how many years. Afterwards, I don't know what year was that, I can't remember. Afterwards my brother-in-law [Peter Hauanio] used to be a council member in the Puna council, member. He was the president. So I asked him about...

CL: Robert Makuakane?

GK: So mentioned that to him [Peter Hauanio]. He said he going talk to the council member. Mostly all different organization or subdivision. They're the council members and so you talk to them, said, Oh yeah, you can ask representatives, the senators if can provide. So we did. We did get the ramp. Cost about \$15,000. Oh, we so happy to have that ramp. As years go by, but mostly all these people from here, they can go out. They understand the water down here. And most of the people [from] out, they didn't go here. They so afraid of this water down here. Tell em, oh we cannot. Our boat no more be safe and all this. So I ask again. Why not breakwater so we don't have to depend on the wife to come every morning, every day, get the truck, launch em down and then pull the boat up. So we can do that all by ourself. And also a pier, small pier for the boat so we can come in, get on the pier, go to our truck, bring our truck down, pull our boat out, drive out. Said okay. And of course the cost the breakwater about \$350,000. And the profit [for] the people who made \$250. Only \$100,000 only for make the breakwater. So we all happy. When we all happy, then everybody come down fishing. And sometime people over here, let's say ahupua`a, you know, [they think] only you,

the people over here can go out. And so I told them right now we don't see it, we don't have that now. So everybody has the right to come down here and go out fish. One incident they block the ramp. They block the ramp and these two persons can not go out. And I was home so just reached Pohiki, the policeman come straight at me. What the police doing here? First thing he ask me, Hey Gabe, how's everything? Everything all right. But I don't know what's going on. I say, everything all right. But I see the two boys over there standing. But I don't see the wife. So I think, they wen do something wrong. So I talked to the boys, what you guys went do here? Oh we wen block the ramp. I told you guys not to do that. You got no right to block. Everybody can come in here. How come you folks do that? Well, they was doing this, they was doing go. I tell, you know something, you know what I told you folks? If you want to go fishing, eleu, [be] lively, and go fish. Why stop here and talk story, talk story and the day is no more. But these two boys go out early in the morning and they come home 12:00. Come home 12:00, box full already. That's the reason you folks cannot make money. That's your fault, not their fault. I think for the jealous that's why. Tell no uncle, no. I tell no, you no tell me that. So afterwards I told them, don't you do that any more. Everybody can come down here. So everybody come down now. Big boats come down here, 30 foot boats to go out. And some of my friend, he ask me, Hey Gabe, I can come down? E, it's free for everybody. That's for everybody, not only for me, not only for Poiki, everybody. So he came down. So I guess everybody, you know, have fish. You wanta go, go. Don't stay up there and grumble. That's what happened now. Everybody make money, they successful. But some cannot. You have so many to reimburse the government, the loan. Some of the boats have to repossess. There's plenty, a lot of programs for the Hawaiian people, but some area of the loan is kind of little bit too strict, too much you gotta pay back. And too short the years. That's it. But for opihi, that's no problem. You can.

CL: So when you stopped, was '63 I guess, how come you stopped opihi?

GK: I think... I don't feel tht urge. I don't feel the strength, you know [to] go, but this opihi, you have to be that way. Enthusiastic, self determination, you never give up. But this I guess I give up. Maybe I come little bit older or something. I don't know what the question is but I did get a job with Ishimoto Contracting Company. We was building a pipeline in this area, Pahoia area and I did work over there for six months. And then afterwards, I worked for the National Park another six months. We laid the fenceline down by Waha`ula. You see all the fenceline starting from where that area is? The pond, Queen's Bath. We start from over there then we go up to Pulama, on top. And that fence in July, then ends in July, that's when the money run out. So I work over there six months. And then afterwards I go back fishing. I go fishing, not opihi.

CL: Not opihi. So was there any younger guys that you took with you that kept going for opihi, Kauai side?

GK: No. Unless, but some boys, some younger ones, but I can go to different area. But they never come to that area where I go every time. I think I'm the only person down there. My family, my brother and sister, my mother, sometime my friends. That's the only person go. But we see people come down with boat.

CL: Oh, from Kapapala maybe.

GK: Kapapala, Pahala, and some come down with the jeep. Get area, someplace in that area the jeep can go down. And sometime I see the trail, tire mark and stuff like that. That's about it. And sometime some people they see you, they come, talk story. We give them opihi. Sometimes they give us, oh no, no, we get some, we get fish, we go throw net and catch some fish. Get area over they can throw net, can throw net, nenu. But those days when went to that area for pound opihi, the fish right by your leg, back and forth. Moi, get nenu, the holehole, lots of fish. But we not familiar with that area so, we not familiar with that place. Even one incident I go throw net, I had number two, two fathom and a half that's 12 feet, 2 inch, no, 12 feet, 36. That's long net. So I went go throw em. Throw the net before I come home, e get one big moi poho, so I throw the net over there, I caught some fish, moi. Then I feel something pull. Tell em, hey, what's this. I know already. It's not big fish. I know it's something else. Maybe paka or āh~ [types of eel] or something like that. So I pulled my net up. But had about maybe 30, 40 moi inside. So I bring em up. Hemo, then that's it, that's enough I go home with. But leave one big hole, and the puhi take some fish, the eel, terrible. So, we don't know about the areas.

CL: I thought you were going to say it was a honu inside.

GK: The honu, we can feel it's honu. Mostly they will go down, [to] the bottom, try to get out.

CL: So if you were going to throw net, you know where you would throw net, where you used to throw net? Can you show me where you used to throw net?

GK: Well, we throw net here.

CL: Kamehame.

GK: Umhum. You throw net right here.

CL: By Palima.

GK: Umhum. And you get some area over here we throw net.

CL: In between.

GK: Yep. And get some Waiwelawela Point. You get two area, three area, two area to throw net.

CL: By Waiwaiwelawela.

GK: Then one, I think some area inside here. Right here some place. It's like a big pond but get like wall around, a big pond, big, not pond but...like one koa, ground, big, but you get some wall around and right in the center you got like a v shape, the water come in, the water go out. But a lot of ~holehole and moi inside there. But the question is how many puhi inside there?

CL: I think that must be over where they say Kā```.

GK: This is not more than, be a small point, you know.

CL: I wish I could get over here with you. I've never gone down there.

GK: If I was little bit younger, we can travel. I like to travel, walking.

CL: Yeah, that's what everybody says who used to fish this area. They like to get in there but it's hard.

GK: Sometime we make ulua. Sometime we caught big kind ulua.

CL: How did you catch ulua? Did you use the post, the ohia.

GK: No. One time I use bamboo but. But the bamboo not that good and we did, we caught some puhi, paka, some big. Bring em up, clean em, cut the head, between the stomach and the head cut em, tie em up with the rope, tell my wife and we go pound, throw em in the water. So I make ready the hook and everything, put down the pole down to the top of the water.

CL: So you're using bamboo pole.

GK: Yeah bamboo pole. So my wife pound, pound, pound. I tell her feel the palu. If warm. Tell yeah warm, it's coming around. Then wife tell there, there, I see, I see. Big. We caught. I think we brought em half way. Turn back again down. When I look the hook, the hook bent. See, I guess maybe hundred pound or something. And we caught some right by Waiwelawela. That one there, then...

CL: The same night?

GK: Yeah same way. Oh no, that a different way. We call that amama.

CL: Ma'ama'a, yeah I know that kind.

GK: And we caught one, 40, 50 pound I think. My father-in-law cut em up. Make the head soup everything. Some make poke. And we have a good dinner. And sometime with poke, take till sometime in the morning. Sometime 2:00 in the morning. Especially my sister, she's a intelligent person. She waiting for everybody finish their bag so everybody can help her. She'd always do that. (laughs) I know my sister went too, she went too.

CL: That's the sister you were talking about, right?

SH: Yeah, Elsie.

GK: But I remember, even the Japanese before, they don't want it.

CL: `Opihi?

GK: Yeah. They don't want it. As a kine no, too expensive, too high.

CL: I thought maybe because they didn't like the taste.

GK: Well. I don't know if they like but. Well no, they like. They like opihi. I know my mother used to sell opihi, in the can, 25 cents. People buy. But mostly all Filipinos they buy. Not Japanese. But me I like this area. We always get opihi, play safe, know what you doing. But, at least in the old time, you know. Eleven years is kinda long though. So eleven years that long, that's how much opihi I can manage. The opihi coming back again.

CL: Well maybe we should stop for today. I got plenty of stuff to write up. So you know what I'll do, I'll (end of interview)

Contents--Gabriel Kealoha interview 1

3/29/99

Tape 1, Side A

- p.1 picking `opihi for sale in Ka`ā: started 1952 w. family first trip from Punalu`u to P~palehau, then out to Kap~pala, using Bangay's mule & horse
- p.2 first sold `opihi to Johnny Fong at 25 cents/pound F died 1935, M started to take him to get `opihi ab. 1937 (for food) picked `opihi for sale 11 years
- p.3 `opihi come out when rough water; too dangerous to go at high tide; others were afraid to go down cliff w. rope sometimes he went hunting for goat on `opihi trips once got 4 bags `opihi at P~palehau, horse got loose & went back to Punalu`u
- p.4 came as far as N~li`ikakani for `opihi (he determined by looking at the curve of the coast); mentions "cinder hill," "over here" the last point they went-- used to see `opihi shells there left by Kalapana pickers (Dan & Kanaela Kamelamela, Oulu Konanui) would poke & salt `opihi from first 2 days, bring back 3rd day's `opihi fresh in shell
- p.5 80s he went in by boat--didn't see big `opihi anymore early on F-in-law sold `opihi they collected in Ka`ā--25 cents per lunch can later he went alone, got commercial license F-in-law lived w. mother later he asked (Fong) for raise to 45 cents/pound `opihi picking provided food, could help family
- p. 6-7 went ab. once a week, generally when the ocean rough (but not too rough), usually went at new moon

Side B

- Hawn. moon calendar--good to go from day Hilo through n~ Kā, even good to go in n~ `Ole (told by greatgranduncle Simeon Wai`au), though most kupuna disagree (during rough time `opihi come up in n~ `ole, even though there's no real low tide for pounding)
- p.7 Gabriel Pe`a picked `opihi on Kalapana side, once was told to leave the park by ranger who thought him not Hawn. (blue eyes) c. 1945 he went Kekaha w. group led by Jack Hamili to pound `opihi for Reginald Ho wedding party at P~hoa
- p.8 knows place Mahuka in Ka`ā--cross there where someone died, cliff too high for him to pound `opihi
- p. 8-9 Kamehame-has brackish water; pounded `opihi there, but plenty people came there so usually went "all the way" "over here" [just west of Palima Point]: flat area w. good limu' fresh water, `opihi there; camped there, could dig hole in sand to get fresh water

Waiwelawela--camped there, has waterhole w. warm, brackish water, has cave and stonewall--places where you can camp

- p.10 was area to pound between Palima Pt. and Mahuka
 once went at Mahuka w. wife and sister (30 ' down cliff)
 would hit an area, then leave it for 6 mos. to recover
 stayed ab. 3 days usually, retd. because animals needed
 food, gave them brackish water
- p.11 doesn't know any water bet. Palima Pt. & Waiwelawela--all
 cliff
 low at Waiwelawela, only 10-11' cliff, a "hole" to get down
 p.12 area bet. Waiapele & Mahuka--has inland pali w. flat
 below, about 16' above ocean, he went down there w. rope to
 pound
 `opihi more profitable than boat fishing (which he also did)
 took people by boat to `Elemakule or P~palehau
- p.13 F-in-law business-minded, learned Ka`u coast from friend
 Kauwe of P~hala
 have to manage the resource to make money
 boat fishing from Pohoiki: first w/o ramp, slid boat out on
 `ohi`a over rocks, didn't go at `Opihikao (would have to ask
 owner), at Pohoiki used Amfac land leased to Hale family,
 sometimes hit rocks
- p.14 lobbied to get boat ramp & then breakwater at Pohoiki
 trouble w. local boys who didn't want outsiders to use ramp
- p.15 (1963) stopped picking `opihi because lost his drive;
 afterward just fished w. boat
 his `opihi area in Ka`ā hardly used by others then--some
 from Kap~pala and P~hala came down w. jeep, some came in w. boat
- p.16 thrownet--went at Kamehame, near Palima Pt., area
 between the two, couple places at Waiwelawela
- p.17 on side marked Kā`''', a saltwater pond w. wall around it,
 plenty fish inside
 he caught ulua at Waiwelawela, using bamboo for hangstick,
 ma`ama`a line