

Interview #1 with Samson Kaawaloa 4/2/99

Tape 1 Side A

CL: So the first thing I'm going to do is I've got this questionnaire that I've given to all the fisherman. So I'm going to ask you the questions that's on this first, cause I want to ask everybody the same questions. And this is basically about fishing these days, maybe the last couple of years. And then later on I'll ask you about fishing earlier on, before the flow came in. I guess I need your age Samson.

SK: Oh, this year, forty-eight. Fifty-one, born in fifty-one, May 4, '51.

CL: That's the same as Aku, isn't it?

SK: Oh just about. Aku one year below me. Aku is fifty-three I think. Or fifty two.

CL: Fifty-three, maybe that's right, fifty-three. And I guess I know your residence. These days, do you go at all to fish into the area that got covered by the flow?

SK: I go but not like the same like before.

CL: So if you go into that area, do you go from the Kalapana side?

SK: I cheat little bit. I go with the boat now. Go with my friends down the Pali. Then I go Apua, go Keauhou.

CL: So you don't own a boat yourself?

SK: I don't own a boat but my friend own.

CL: Do you mind telling me who?

SK: Brown, Marvin Brown.

CL: He goes out of Pohiki?

SK: Yeah.

CL: When was the last time that you went in by boat? If you can think. Just approximately.

SK: The last trip was February.

CL: This year yeah?

SK: Yeah.

CL: And what did you do?

SK: Oh went to Keauhou. We camped down at Keauhou overnight, just the night. Gathering some opihis but was kind of wipe out already. And get `a`ama crab. Went over, that night they went go crabbing.

CL: And what kind of fishing, throw net?

SK: Throw net--_holehole, u_u_, manini, mixed plate.

CL: Anything else? That's it.

SK: Only this opihis and, but the opihis not that much was. Too much boats, too much people picking em now days. Probably the ranger not doing their job too.

CL: And how often do you go in by boat would you say?

SK: About two times a year. All depends who die, whose party, whose baby party, whose getting married. That's the only time we go down gather some opihi and fish.

CL: So this last time was for a party too?

SK: This last round was, yeah was for a party. A baby one year old party.

CL: So do you ever go in by car to the roadside area?

SK: Not too much. Maybe about once a year I drive over the other side to go pole fishing for menpachi like that, and moi. We go in spend the night that side there.

CL: So you camp when you do that.

SK: Yeah, camp along side the roads. Sometime the rangers come, most time the ranger don't come nighttime.

CL: The area where you go, do you know how to describe it?

SK: They call that place Forty-five. Or the Last Parking Stall.

CL: Yeah, I know where Forty-five is. I checked out the areas.

SK: Cause the name is called Forty-five because that was the speed limit sign.

CL: Easy to find. So, can you remember when the last time you went there was?

SK: Oh last year sometime. Maybe in the late part of November.

CL: Do you ever go hike into Twenty Minutes?

SK: I don't go anymore. I used to. I used to go like every weekend, like Fridays and I come home like Sundays or Saturdays. I just take my Korean friend. He hook ulua in there, Twenty Minutes. The biggest we catch about ninety-two pounds. We go in there like just an overnighter. If overnight well stay in there like, that night we probably catch about six, seven ulas.

CL: Oh yeah. Slide bait?

SK: Yeah, slide bait, menpachi, tako, or eel, just cut the slab of eel in half and slide em down. That kind pole.

CL: The big one?

SK: Yeah the big size. Take about sometimes twenty minutes for fight em, fight the fish. Sometime ten minutes.

CL: So if you were catching menpachi then, that's a different pole or

SK: Yeah, it's a whipping pole.

CL: And the `_'io was also the whipping pole?

SK: Yeah it's a whipping pole like, it's a soft tip for catch menpachi, _weoweo.

CL: So all that stuff you would be catching at night?

SK: Yeah, it's a night fish. Sometimes you catch the ulua daytime or afternoon but most time at nighttime, morning time around 2:00 in the morning.

CL: How long ago do you think you last went there?

SK: Maybe about five years, four or five years ago. Now it's a lot of sand in there. It's a crater over there. It's kinda full with sand. I don't want to go back. I don't go back anymore. But some days I'll go back and throw my pole, spend the night. Now days I hardly have time for go out camping. I get animals to take care that's why.

CL: What about, did you ever used to hike in farther than Twenty Minutes to Ka`ena?

SK: Ka`ena, yeah. Before the lava came. It was easy place to throw, catch all kind fishes like holehole, u_u, moi, mixed plates, crab. Just like going shopping. But now the lava come so it's buried. Not that much places for throw net. Maybe it's only one place to throw net anymore. At Ka`ena.

CL: You mean after the Mauna Ulu flow?

SK: Yeah.

CL: So you must have gone there when you were pretty young.

SK: Oh yeah. Used to get water hole over there. That's where we camp, right at the water hole. And my uncle or my dad used to shoot the donkeys. Just wait at the water hole, the donkey want to come and drink water. So he just stayed by the water hole and the donkey each time, they all come. Look the fat one, then shoot em and we clean em up then dry em all on the rocks and let the, move away from the water hole. All the donkeys go over there drink water. After they had the water they went back out.

CL: How old do you think you were when you went to Kaena?

SK: About nine, ten year old. Used to get all those animals like goats. Used to have goats over there. Was like in the shopping center right there. Want a goat over there, goat you know.

CL: So the goats did they come drink water there too?

SK: Yeah. Come drink water there or if we stay over there at the waterhole, they don't come, they go to the ocean, alongside. They drink from the ocean.

CL: Brackish places there. Yeah Aku, I don't think he went to Kaena before the flow, he didn't remember it.

SK: Aku they was the divers. They was diving most time Kalapana side. I used to go almost every year I go down. I go with my uncle. I go with my dad or with my uncle.

CL: Which uncle is that?

SK: Alvin Kaipo, my father's brother. And George Napoleon. Good old days you know. I kind of miss all that because they show me everything and today you don't see them all around. So what I learned from them is for me. But I can share em with you, or with the world.

CL: So, aside from throw net, was there any other fishing you did at Kaena?

SK: Pole fishing. Straight pole, bamboo. Not this kind of type of reels and...

CL: Didn't have that.

SK: No, no. I used to ride from Queen's Bath all the way to there, go fishing, stay there a couple of nights a week. Then we move on. Either we go back home or we continue the journey to `Apua. Most time we stay at `Apua Point. But we go down, we stop

Kealakomo. We pick salt, get all those salt holes down there. And we used to stop there and pick about fifty, sixty pound of salt.

CL: You'd do that on your way out to Apua?

SK: Yeah. So when we reach `Apua, hang em up underneath the trees and let the water just drip off. We stay up most the time a week or two weeks. And Apua, we go night fishing. That days, well never had flashlight so we had to bring the bamboo, kerosene, the grass bags, stick em in, tie em up with the wire and that was our flashlight.

CL: Lamalama they call that.

SK: Yeah, go lamalama.

CL: So what kind of night fishing?

SK: Oh that days was throw net nighttime or go to the turtle holes and yank some turtles out.

CL: Are they easy to catch at night?

SK: Yeah. Get pukas up there Apua. And at nighttime, just about dark, I go with the torch, go by the puka, just stay by the entrance where the wave go in and out. Just block right there and straight to the entrance and put the light on and then they start swimming all around in the hole and they come out. Then you have to be ready to grab em and turn em over. All depend how much we catch nighttime. Sometime three, four and turn em upsidedown and drag em up by the sand. Leave em there. In the morning cut their neck and dry some, cook some next day. So what the fish we catch that night, clean em up and salt em. And in the morning rinse em off with the salt water and throw em all on the rocks, the pahoehoe. And all day sun, the fish come real dry. We usually go home with like about eight bags dry fish and about two bags dry turtles. And we go home and we start giving all the families. And we end up with maybe one bag. The rest was distributed to the family.

CL: Mostly in Kapaahu?

SK: Yeah, most Kapaahu. Then the Reverend Pe'a. He used to go down too. He go down by himself, make his opihis. He take his two mules.

CL: How long do you think he was going in?

SK: Long time he been going.

CL: When would he have stopped? Sixties?

SK: Around in the sixties. Early sixties I'm pretty sure. Sixty, sixty-one. I think maybe about not more than sixty-five. That's when everything was just fading off. They get sick. If you don't go, just like in the fifties and sixties, had this guy, Kamelamela, Dan Kamelamela and Kanaela, he used to go down. But he'd stop by my dad's house, oh he going down. Yeah we going down too. Okay. So we all saddle up in the morning like about 4:00 in the morning we leave. We reach down Apua like 2:00 in the afternoon, 2:30. Stop, check the fish, here, throw net there. So when you reach `Apua, oh you have to clean fish already. After finish cleaning that bunch fish, get the net, throw some more for fish. And was just constantly working the fish and come back and clean fish. That's all you do, clean fish. I don't think so had a day off down there. Just like because when they said, oh you have to go down there, you have to do what you're supposed to do and ask them why. Say, well we just probably the wave going come up high and the water going come rough and you cannot do nothing. So when the time is good water we just do our thing yeah. Pick opihi, salt em up, put em on the side in the cracker can. Maybe about four cracker cans and then put it on the side, salt em up and the days no ice box so just to preserve em eh.

CL: So you folks were just getting that for home use.

SK: Home use yeah. Home use and most distributed to the family.

CL: Not like Pe'a yeah.

SK: No. Pe'a he was doing like, you know, he get some orders like ten gallon opihi, he get orders or he go down and make his ten gallons. Same time he picks salt. And Kanaela used to do the same thing. Get his opihi and his salt, same time he catch couple of goats and they bring em out. To me was good fun. I learned a lot of things from the old timers yeah. And only like my dad used to buy us mules and horses. That's why we get to go out there. And my dad when he finish Johnston Island, he came here and work little bit while and he start buying all these mules.

CL: So those day, before the Mauna Ulu flow, did you ever go into the Park by car? Or only by horseback,

SK: Before the road went in?

CL: Let's say...after they put in the road.

SK: Well, then we start trucking our horses, mule, truck em to the Pu`uloa parking stall. From over there we saddle up and continue going. I used to go with my brother-in-law. He used to truck his horse. My brother-in-law, my sister, my oldest sister used to go Apua. Gathering some grinds, some foods for the family.

CL: Did you ever used to go in by boat before this recent flow?

SK: No, most horseback riding or mule. I think just about in the eighties, eighty-six, eighty-seven that's when I start going down with boats.

CL: Just before the flow then yeah.

Sk; Yeah.

CL: So what about this area that's close to Kapaahu where the flow came in? At Poupou and Waha`ula and over there? Kamoamoia in there? Did you used to use that area?

SK: Before yeah. Used to use, go through the trail over there. And had two trail. One trail they go up the mountain and the other trail was just follow the coastline. And used to get all goats down there. Kamoamoia used to have lot of goats. Lae`apuki.

CL: What about fishing in that area?

SK: Everything was biting. Lot of fish. Cause nobody goes in there. And fish was just, plenty fish. Plenty opihi. Cause a lot of people, they don't want to walk all the way in there and make the opihi and walk all the way back out, put em on their back. And only the very ones had animals like my dad and Kanaela you know.

CL: So you could drive. After the road got put in, you could drive.

SK: Yeah, you could drive through there. But before the road we used to drive em all on the trail but after the road came by, plenty people start fishing eh. Then the fish start to fade out until this lava flow came. Came more worse. The lave come get sand, cover all the holes. And you like to catch menpachi like that, oh it's only sand. The fish don't hang around by sand. Have to go move different place a little bit past where the sand don't reach or had only rocks. That's where they bite. After the sand came in over there just nothing happening.

CL: Still today, do you think it's like that?

SK: Maybe today get ta`ape I think, that State fish. That, that's the worst fish they brought in the island probably I'd say, cause they eat all the regular fish, all the babies or the eggs. And the taapi is just a rubbish fish you know. That's all the change all about that fish, they put it in, the State put it in the water and that kind of fish they took over the whole place. Get ta`ape or ta`au. You don't have the varieties, have all the junks.

CL: So, since the flow, have you ever gone into that new flow area to try fishing?

SK: From land?

CL: Yeah.

SK: No. I tried one time but. I go over there and hang stick for ulua yeah. Maybe somehow it wasn't the right day or so.

CL: Whereabouts?

SK: Oh right below Buddy Robert's house. Right below there. That's the last I went there. I never go back. I past you with the boat on the water. It's all different the grounds. Before was flat. Now you see all cliffs. And can see where the old lands is way back there and the new land is extended out here.

CL: Do you hear of anyone else trying that new flow area? I'm just curious whether anybody...

SK: Most outsiders. Most of the outsiders they just go through anybody's property and they just go fish overnight or ywo

Side B

CL: Let's say since the flow, or recent years, have you ever gone to Kahue or `Apua?

SK: I go with the boat.

CL: Can you go into `Apua by boat?

SK: Yeah. Or we swim, have to swim. The boat cannot park in there. Just go in and we all jump off.

CL: Somebody drops you off.

SK: Yeah and he stays out on the boat and then we pick opihi or throw net. Sometime good, get only two type of fish like _holehole or u_u_.

CL: Kahue you don't go?

SK: Kahue, I don't like go in Kahue. Only once in awhile we stop Kahue. But then drop off from the boat, swimming. Get only about one place over there to throw net. So we do that, just stop, jump off from the boat, swim up with the net, throw for the mois. Sometime two, three bags one throw. And pick whatever opihi around there, be about one bag. Load em up on the boat, out. We come home.

CL: So you combine that with Apua?

SK: Yep.

CL: If you go Apua like that, you get dropped off by the boat, do you stay overnight?

SK: Apua we don't stay over night because never can tell next morning the wave just come up big. So you cannot go back out you know. We always say, oh, some of my cousins say, oh we go camping there you know, everything. I say, no. What if tomorrow rough? We cannot go back out, jump in the water and go back out. That place it's when it's rough the whole bay, the whole place is wave, lot of wave. That's for get hurt or drown or something. So we play it safe. It's no place to camp.

CL: So do you know when the last time you would have gone in by horseback would have been? Horse or mule.

SK: Probably in the sixties. The last trip probably in seventy, maybe seventy-four, seventy-five.

CL: So that was after the Mauna Ulu flow.

SK: Yeah.

CL: After the flow stopped?

SK: The flow never stop. It was still going. When the flow was coming down yet.

CL: So how did you go? Where did you go?

SK: Go Apua.

CL: You could get through?

SK: Can get through. Cause it just below Apua. I mean Keauhou side the flow going down. The other side of Apua. So we be kicking back at the beach and just looking at the flow coming down you know. I think sixty-eight or sixty-seven, the flow came down to Kahui, Ka'u side of the goat corral. And like it's about a quarter mile of a'a. And had a bunch of cowboys like my dad and my uncle, his brother Alvin, John Hauanio, and I forget couple names. They went down and open up that road, open the trail up with ohia stick. Pound pound, you know the a'a. Tied the horse one side and everybody, like about get six, seven of us made the trail to go across.

CL: Where they thought the old trail was?

SK: Yeah. So just make your own trail and follow so you can go across to Apua. And that days was the lava just like about a week or two. It's kind of warm here and there. But when rain, oh the whole place just steam up so couldn't see sometime. The trail we made was good. Then everybody start using that trail for cross

over. That's the only place you can cross that's why, with animal yeah. Upside was just thick of a'a and right down to the beach. Only that flow was a'a. The rest of the flow was all pahoehoe.

CL: Yeah, today you know, it's hard to tell what

SK: What was there. Yeah.

CL: So what about Halape? You ever go Halape these days?

SK: Hardly go Halape. But when I used to work for the Park I used to go Halape every week.

CL: What year's was that?

SK: Seventy-three, seventy-four.

CL: I didn't know you worked for the Park.

SK: Yeah, I used to work for the National Park.

CL: And they let you camp down there.

SK: Yeah. Take down a group like YCC, Young Youth

CL: I guess I did know that cause you know Peggy Rosendaul, you were working with her I think yeah?

SK: A little bit, a little while.

CL: I'm sure she mentioned your name once.

SK: My cousin was working with her too. Kainoa. They was doing archaeologies.

CL: Yeah, right.

SK: And I used to take some archaeologists from Pu`uloa on horseback for about three days for archaeologies. They come down to Kahue, Ka`ena, Kahue. Kealakomo, `Apua, down to Keauhou and Halape. Then they go on top of Pu`u Kapukapu, camp night. They camp up there. We camped there the first night was down Keauhou. And the second night we were camping up Pu`u Kapukapu. And from Pu`u Kapukapu we went down to... forget the names already. Waiwelawela or something like that.

CL: Yeah could have been. Long ways over, where there was some ruins.

SK: Yeah, towards Keone, Keone side.

CL: Must have been Kue'e or

SK: Kue'e. Then from there it's right up to that Hilinapali trail. I used to take em to the big petrified cliff, that petrified Hawaiian in the cave. Get a big cave down there so I took them.

CL: At Kue'e?

SK: Above of Kue'e. Come down from Hilinapali, maybe about half mile away from the trail. How we found that, we put fence from up Hilinapali, between Hilinapali, Kipuka Nene, we run a fence right down to the beach. And that's how, was right on the side of a big hole. And Don Reser was our boss.

CL: Yeah, I heard about him.

SK: To me he was the best boss. If he would be there I would be there yet.

CL: You must have been there the time John Kaiwe was there.

SK: Yeah. Me and John was honchos up there.

CL: So but these days you don't go to Halape any more, eh?. What about farther west like Kue'e and in there.

SK: Kue'e side, yeah I go. I go with the boat. Kue'e is a nice place too but it's just that when we go in we just jump off and swim in, gather all our, gather it and we come back out cause cannot stay in there. When it come rough, you cannot go back out.

CL: So the same way that you swim in.

SK: Yeah, swim in. About maybe stay out maybe about hundred feet, fifty feet, seventy-five feet. Before the old boat drivers like uncle Ula, you drive right up to the rock and you step off from the boat. And you outta there. Then when he come back, they step right back, he come right back to this rock. And from that rock he get good timing, the wave, boat come right there, he jump on the boat. Today it's different. The rock is buried because the ground went sink and so now swim everybody.

CL: So if you go in there today, is it just for opihi?

SK: Opihi most, opihi. Fish well we can get outside there. Most for opihi for parties like that.

CL: Anything else?

SK: Opihi, fish, throw net. Most time, like about five, six guys go in. It's only me like I don't pick too much but I just grab my net and I do my thing and the guys who pick opihi, they go on their own, they pick opihi. I go throw net and when I finish they should

be finished. And we all get together and tie the bags all together and swim em out to the boat. And we out of there.

CL: So would you reckon you've gone there recently?

SK: I never go for about six years. Six, seven years I never go that side. Now I just hanging Keauhou, Apua and we hardly go Halape. We don't go Halape. Once in awhile we going Halape but on the Ka'u side.

CL: Oh yeah, where they call Halape Iki?

SK: Yeah inside there. And then we jump off and pick opihi along the big rocks over there. Big boulders over there. Before was kind of dangerous for go because had goats eh. You make noise and the goats see you down there and they start jumping, the rocks up there. Then you get the whole mountain coming down. Then you gotta run for your life. But you know from Halape, we walk right up to Pukapukapu, John and I, Kaiewe. I told John, "We go back down." "No Hawaiian." His leg was all shaking.

CL: So that place too, that Halape Iki, when would you say was the last time you went there?

SK: Oh, maybe seventy-eight, seventy-nine.

CL: After that earthquake though.

SK: Yeah, after the earthquake.

CL: Was it better for going in by boat after the earthquake, or worse? Or no different..

SK: No difference. It was just the same but just had to go inside there when low tide. Then the boat can go in. From that side and then we swim up. Or when rough or rough water, you have to stay outside. I mean swim from outside come in. But that that's too far for swim. If you have to swim from here to outside by stone wall, that's too far then. You don't know what underneath get. But get about five, six, seven guys ah, that all right. But just three, four guys jump off, forget it.

CL: So I don't think I've talked to anybody that went throw net at Kue'e. How much...

SK: Lot of fish over there.

CL: How much poho would you say?

SK: Poho fish?

CL: Yeah, how many?

SK: Oh, about ten, twelve. Yeah if you work em hard like in the morning you start, you hit all thqt ten holes, you get a whole day job for clean fish right there. But then usually we don't fish. When I used to go with the horse around, we used to, first day we don't usually work that hard, catch all the fish in all that pukas. We just hold it for the end of the week like Friday we going home.

So Thursday morning, or Thursday afternoon and Friday morning, throw all in that holes and you get about couple coolers. Get em all full and... we take ice yeah. And fill up all the ice chest with fish. From over there we load up the mules and honk a ride up to Ainahou Ranch. Used to get cut-short trails from Ainahou you have to cross to Kipuka Nene trail, angle forty-five degree straight down to Kue`e.

CL: That was when you were working for the Park.

SK: Yeah. A lot of fish in that area used to be before. Until now I'm pretty sure because, get some people they go down from Hilinapali. By Hilinapali you can go down Kue`e you can throw all the fish, especially when you don't have an animal you cannot catch what you want to catch you know.

CL: Too hard to carry.

SK: Yeah, too hard for carry to go back up the hill. You go up the hill maybe about a week after, oh you see somebody opihi bag, opihi they cannot carry em, it's all rotting. And you go up and maybe don't even reach half way, you see a bag of fish all rotting cause he cannot carry em up the hill.

CL: I know. It's hard just to walk up that hill. Cause I did that one time.

SK: I did one time walking and I said, forget it. I don't need that. I ride horse up and down that trail. That was the hardest part about walking up. But we don't have nothing on our back so but oh it's the walking yet you know.

CL: I can imagine with a bag of fish.

SK: And you start walking on a hot day, oh you gonna die.

CL: So those poho at Kue'e, are they for moi or..

SK: Moi, holehole.

CL: Different holes for moi and

SK: Different yeah. Holehole and u_u is all over, the whole creation you know, the whole place. Nēnue, nenuē get nenuē holes like about three, four of em. Get Mulletts, mullet hole. In the

sixties, sixty-seven like that I used to go with my brother-in-law. We go down and get us some food. But we go down through Hilinapali come down, spend the night down Kue'e.

CL: So what, you trailer the horses in?

SK: Yeah. From on top National Park come down to Kipuka Nene all the way down to Hilinapali.

CL: Sam, do you ever go pole fishing for moi?

SK: Yeah.

CL: In the Park area?

SK: In the Park and most in the Park and our on Red Road. Daytime, nighttime. I used to go with my brother-in-law father. Elia Kaho'okaulana. I go pole fishing, hook moi.

CL: Straight pole or...

SK: Straight pole. No reels. You bring one reel there they don't want to fish with you with the reel right there. The reel probably going chase em away. The pole fishing, regular bamboo, like you put em in the water, fish bite, wham, right up it goes. Not this reel. Throw with the reel and oh ssssss. You know, running all over and disturb the whole bunch fish in there. You only going catch one. Like the straight pole, they don't know what went happen. So the whole school can just stay there and you can catch like any amount you want. Enough to, that's good enough, thank you, out of there.

CL: So whereabouts in the Park would you go?

SK: Pole fishing?

CL: For moi.

SK: Was Kahue, Kealakomo, Apua.

CL: So same places where you....

SK: Keaouhou never had that's why. Keaouhou they don't, they never did. Had most po`opa`a over there.

CL: So the places where you use a pole for moi, is that different from the places where you go throw net?

SK: Same place but we got throw net it's a different holes. And when you go pole fishing it's different holes but same places. Where you cannot throw net, use the pole. I use crab bait.

CL: `A`ama?

SK: Yeah `a`ama. Smash a little bit, throw em in the hole, they hook on one `a`ama or half a `a`ama.

CL: So do you still do that today at all?

SK: Nope. I don't do that. I don't go with the straight pole anymore. I just go there and throw the net on em. The old holes still there. And the fish still come, comes and go. But when real good water all the fish all goes outside. When little bit rough, oh they all home.

CL: Tell me what places you got ulua at, I can't remember.

SK: Ulua?

CL: Yeah.

SK: I used to go ulua maybe every week but with this kind of pole but before I got into this pole, we used to go hang stick with the ohia sticks. And we used to catch those seventy, eighty pounds, hundred pound. I used to pound palu, ten, fifteen minute they'd be right there. Just get ready and bite that big ulua pole, that ohia stick. We don't just yank it off and pull it up. Pull you right in cause they was big eh.

CL: Do you think it's easier to catch a really big ulua with the hang stick?

SK: Oh yeah.

CL: Cause you don't have to fight em.

SK: Yep. They fight the pole. I can do that yet. That I do that once in awhile. I use that line over there, the green one hanging up. I use that for.

CL: You have a stick down?

SK: Yeah, down the pali. I take down one on the boat. Take em down to Keauhou when I go down Keauhou I do it.

CL: So you go that place, Kalapana side of Keauhou?

SK: Yeah. Up by the pali. Either that or right below. Keauhou, get the big stone over there, Keauhou. Small arch, right there I put it.

CL: Right in the bay area?

SK: Yeah, just a little bit of the bay.

CL: This side?

SK: Ka'u side. Only about two hundred feet away or three hundred feet.

CL: Yeah, I think Aku was talking about that place but I don't think he ever went there.

SK: I went over there and caught couple from there. The upside one was, get too much people go up there. Sometime the hands are no good when they go over there. They use the next guy hole yeah. And then the fish they know when to bite em, when not to bite em. They can come right up, look at em and just turn away. And the water gotta be little shaky too so the, you know when you hang em the bait look like live. So from where you going come is from under there it would be coming without you knowing. You just end up stop your heart right there. Like wow. They fight like wild animals, worse than horse or cows. Yeah, I used to do that on a ulua poles on ohia stick. Then Aku just started too yeah. There was the father and maybe the brother, Gilbert, and John Hauonio. That's only two people I see. Usually they go holoholo like that, ohia stick. But other from that there was a, day time was this divers. They was most diving, diving for fish. And me, I went learn from my brother-in-law's father and I learned

Tape 2 Side A

CL: Yeah, go ahead.

SK: Yeah we used to go up on the pali and catch like, used to be old man Peleiholani and my cousin Kimo, Peleiholani and my other cousin Paul Sweezey and myself. And the days was strict, like strict. Cannot whistle, you cannot make noise, you cannot say nothing. So he just do his thing. He use a straight pole and good size cord, just smaller than a finger and he k_ kele em on the water. And he used to pound palu. Ten minutes, yanking up about two already. And we move to the next, towards, in the back of Lady Point. They call that Lady Point, in the back of auntie Minnie place. The point out there. Stop there and another ten minutes, that's another ulua. Like is about sixty pound uluas. So three is nough already. Three of us have to carry that fish, put em in the grass bag and just carry em on the back and take em home.

CL: So you still do that today some?

SK: Yeah I do that. Once in awhile, eh? And my brother-in-law father [Elia Kaho`okaulana] he's another strict one too. Can't make noise. You know when you small you inquisitive yeah. Or else they going tell you come, don't you point, don't you say nothing. In your life, what you looking for? I think when they pounding the palu, they know the fish there already. Cause it's warm, the palu.

You never see a fish in your life that big so... come, we go look. What you looking for? One time he just come up. Eighty, ninety pound. There, there, there, there! Plack, you get slap in your head. Get up there. You roll up the line. Go home. And you tell em what? why was all that? You realize it's the real old Hawaiian style. You don't make noise, you don't point, you don't say nothing. Well you learn something now, yeah? The next trip you go, you see them getting all their gear, their line. Even that you cannot say nothing. Oh you going fishing? Where you going? You going fishing? Right there you get one slap in your head again. And they put away the stuff. They no going, cause you open your mouth. Learn again. Was pretty strict for all those kind. One night we caught a big one, maybe in the morning about 4:00. It was so huge we couldn't bring em up. Ulua, eyes was about like that big. It was just about out of the water and the hook went bend. Come straight like that. The hook bend, fish fall down. Try net em. Cannot do nothing. Packed up everything, go home. The old Hawaiian style.

CL: How about the slide bait kind?

SK: Casting kind?

CL: Yeah.

SK: It's all right. But you have to palu yeah.

CL: Yeah. Oh you palu for that too?

SK: Sometime. Sometime palu, sometime ah, throw em down. Sometime the puhi take em, the eel. They take the hook and they come under the rock. Unless you have to make em high before the eel can come, take em eh. Sometime you bringing in the eel, the ulua just come and yank the whole eel off. Swimming on the water like that, ulua just come and take the whole thing. I catch like this about, the biggest, I lost it, about 200 pounds, ulua. I was hanging stick that time Apua Point. That was is the sixties, early sixties. The biggest one in my life. Cause the rope, I use rope yeah, and just had a small rough spot. That's all it take, that small rough spot, it bust right there, the ulua got away. But with this kind I've been catching quite a bit, slide bait. The last I catch the biggest one was eighty-four, hundred twenty pound, hundred fifteen pound.

CL: In eighty-four?

SK: Yeah. Right down at Black Sand, Kaimu, intersection. Right down at the intersection.

CL: Little bit toward `Opihikao side?

SK: No, right there where they, right there the intersection.

CL: I didn't know you could go there.

SK: Yeah, right in the front there. Get the bay eh. And the road ends right there. And I used to camp right there and slide the bait. I put on a big hou, a green hou? About this big. Oh all the Japanese, haoles all come and they say, oh what kind fish you catch? I said, big kind fish. Eh? Big fish I catch. Too big your bait they tell me. I say, no get bigger fish that going eat that bait. Then after ten minutes they left, the big ulua bite em. I caught em. I fight em twenty minutes. Had one eight foot shark in the back. He want to eat em. So I reel em in as fast, bring em in. Have party right down at the beach. This kind of ice chest, only the meat alone, full. And the head, the bones make soup. About three cracker cans. Boil em up. Party, call the whole Kalapana. It's party. I get the picture upstairs. You like see the picture?

CL: Sure, sure. So Samson, is there any place else where you go for hang stick, besides Keauhou? These days I'd say.

SK: Nowadays get some old places where the lava never disturb. They still get the holes left over there.

CL: But you don't go those places?

SK: I don't go, I don't go out so long cause you just have to go on the right moon, the right time. Sometime my friend just call me up in the blues, oh tomorrow you like go fish? I mean go holoholo. What you doing. I said, oh shoot, we go. So like this just pack up and going. So I don't intend to do the kind job when get lot of guys, I don't like do that kind of stuff. You concentrating on what you want to catch and get guys being behind you talking and making noise and pointing fingers and you know, just don't work that way with me.

CL: When is the last time you went?

SK: Oh hang stick, say about two years ago. It's about two years ago.

CL: Was that at Keauhou?

SK: Yeah, Keauhou. But Kalapana get places yet. But I just, I don't have for the timing for do it, cause get my cattles and I get my pigs for take care and I get these kids to take care of, that house to take care of. You end up to be the housewife or something.

CL: So what about slide bait? Is there anywhere you go in the Park for that?

SK: Oh, any place in the Park. Forty-five. Below Forty-five go

Kaheka. But I hardly go down, I don't go down Twenty Minutes or... it's just the last parking stall. Dunk em over there.

CL: So you don't go to Twenty Minutes.

SK: No, I don't go. Long time I never go. Pretty soon maybe I should go. Cause I get the kids for carry the stuff in eh.

CL: Have you gone recently to forty-five or Kaheka?

SK: No not this year yet. I never go this year and last year I never go.

CL: Okay.

SK: But I hear a lotta guys say, oh they catch moi, and `akule. They use that small generator, put the light down. Bright the light. The `akule come inside for the light, and just whip em.

CL: I didn't hear about that before.

SK: Yeah, it's a new thing I heard so I was figuring I'd go try that. When I get one day off or something.

CL: Do you ever throw net for nenu?

SK: Yeah.

CL: And where would you go for throw?

SK: For now, nowadays I go down, I go this side now. I go at the lighthouse, Kapoho lighthouse. Get a puka over there that is I found that, I don't know if anybody found em or they use em or. I mean over there every trip I catch em. There's a big hole in there and always have big nenu in there. Three, four, sometime with palani. Never miss. When I like catch nenu, I just go down there. Just throw em in the hole, just throw blind and I catch em.

Other from that you have to wait and wait for high tide. Because when high tide, all the fish come in for eat. And all she have to wait till the tide just about starting to go down because was high and the ground was, all the limu, everything all wet. But then before it start going down the tide, the fish come back up, come eat. That's when I throw net. But you go over there low tide, you cannot catch nothing. So much people.

CL: Do you have to go like morning or evening?

SK: Most time early bird catch the worm. Most time I leave home about 5:00, 5:30 in the morning. I'm right there at six before the sun come up. And I throw em.

CL: Cause I think your dad was saying that the light has to be....

SK: Just right the sunrise. And you can see em. But sometime sun no come out, you have to take a chance. And that's a chance you take. Either they're home or not. But most of the time they're home cause nobody disturb em all night. So just before the sun come way out high, maybe 7:00, 8:00 the fish all go out already. They go out. They don't stay inside. Yeah my dad, we used to go like go 4:00 in the morning and just go pull our saddle up. It's hour, two hour ride, hour and a half the highway. Reach there the sun just start coming up. My dad and I and my brother just throw the nets.

CL: At Apua.

SK: Yeah. Then we had to wait till about one, two o'clock. Two o'clock is when we leave. What we catch in the morning, the sun coming up so we put all the fish, he open his poncho, the green poncho, raincoat, lay em out on the sand, or the p_hoehoe. Sometime we don't put on the p_hoehoe but that time had pe_lee hair so we have to put something so the pe_lee hair don't mix up with the fish. Then we used to leave em on top the couple hours one side, couple hours the other side. All big mois yeah. Just to make em all hard, burn em like. So when you put em in the bag all head down. We don't bring ice chest I tell you cause just going down and out. So we put em, get all these trash bags and other bags and just fix all the head down in the bags. Maybe about fifty, sixty in one bag, tie em up. Fifty, sixty in another bag, tie the two bags together, put em on the horse. Then when we reach out to the car, load up the horses, we go home. Then I go down to Walter Yamaguchi Store, buy about ten bag ice and go home, take out all the fish from the bag and make one bag ice, put em in the tub, make the water cold, then we wash the fish up and set em all up in the cooler. Put ice and set the next layer. Tie two of this kind, fill em up and we take em Hilo go sell. Make money. Gotta buy dog food, gotta buy grain, gotta buy horse shoe, nail you know. I no more job the days so that's what used to do. That's before we, after we give everybody, they share. Then the rest goes to the market.

CL: That was before you started working for the Park?

SK: Yeah.

CL: Must have been like late sixties around there.

SK: Yeah late sixties. That's where all my time was, down that side. You know Apua. Cause my dad was always like to go Apua. Always Apua. To me just like was second home, to me afterwards, oh that's my second home down there. Going up there, you don't want to come out. You don't have to listen to anybody, you can stay in there you know, forever. I used to stay there like a week, two weeks, three weeks. But if three weeks, that's the first week rough the water, we can't do nothing. So rough so only can go pole

fishing, you know, catch po`opa`a like that. Throw net cannot because was rough. But we go down there when we return is you get quite a bit for come home to distribute it to the families eh.

CL: So Kamu, these days, you ever pick up salt? When you go in the Park.

SK: No. I don't pick up any more salt any more cause

CL: Some people like to use I know but

SK: Yeah but the pukas some is there but they just not too much water go inside the puka. And if get water go in the puka, sometime it come out this much in the hole, all this full. But it's timing for you to go there go get em. And it's a month for you to go get em, not later. It's now kind and if we figure later on we'll go over there and pick em up, you all ready, you go over there and all melt because the rain. Couple days went rain. When rain mix up with the salt.

CL: You gotta be ready to go when the time is right.

SK: Yeah, when the time is right. There's certain months to go down there. Like I think was in June, July. June July cause it's the hot summertime. It's when all the pukas all get salt inside. You go after that, oh that's rain and

CL: What about, you ever pick limu anywhere in the Park?

SK: No, no. Only outside here, Kaimu and Kalapana side used to get the limu. Kapa`ahu like that.

CL: You ever go for lobster in the Park area?

SK: Not too much. Maybe I set net like one, two net lobster but we hardly catch lobster in the Park. Maybe Keauhou. Once in awhile but Keauhou, Halape used to get lobster. Apua, get some but before we hardly set net at Apua. Cause my dad said when you go set, although can be about chest high, waist deep, see when rough you cannot go back and get your net. The net stay there about a weeks and when you go back over there you don't have net, nothing. My dad said always you put in you better go get em in the morning. We go down there, maybe I would set my net like knee deep and then when real rough that's about chest high? Lobsters wasn't that much. Maybe diving yeah. Dive probably catch lot but the lobster of cross your net down there, I mean we never did take nets for cross for lobster nets.

CL: What about these days? Would you ever take net to Keauhou?

SK: Oh I go, I take nets and I go Keauhou. Take cross net, fish.

CL: For fish too?

SK: Yeah. For fish, cross net, fishing net and lobster net and I take and throw net. I take like about one lobster net or two lobster nets. Most of the time I only take em for a ride but once in awhile if I get time I set em out. I take one cross net, fishing kind, and I take about three throw nets, one for wowo or one for holehole and one for moi and nenuis.

CL: Are they different?

SK: The nets? Yeah. I take like the moi, it's about a three inch eye. The holehole is about two and a half, and the wowo is about two and a quarter. And the lobster net, four inch. And the fish net is two and a half by four inch. Two and a half it's about like this the eye. And she's double skirt eh. The outside or inside part it's a four inch. So what goes through the big eye get caught in the two inch eye, two and a half inch. And what's more smaller than that all go through. That's how I do it, you know?

CL: So that's a fish net? For what kind fish?

SK: Oh, mixed plate. Manini, papios and...

CL: So that's why you're just calling that a fish net.

SK: Yeah. Uhus, you know palani, kalas, and that we just cross the whole bay with the net. And just chase the fish. They all go right in the net.

CL: That was a cross net you were talking about with the two and a half and the four. Oh okay.

SK: That you just put in and like five minutes and then take em out ten minute because you got take em off from the coral eh. Lot of coral so.

CL: So do you pa'ipa'i or you just

SK: Paipai, yeah paipai. Yeah when I go I get my green bag back there I get all my gears ready. If I get one telephone call like this afternoon or tomorrow morning we going, oh I grab that, put it here, grab my cooler put it here. I get my sleeping bag. I gather all your camping gear right there and then and in the morning your load it up. And by at least by three or three-thirty we leave home over here. Three-thirty, three o'clock boat leaves the ramp Pohoiki, four o'clock sometime in the morning, four-thirty. I would be down Apua like about six o'clock, six-thirty.

CL: Oh yeah. In time for throw net.

SK: In time for throw net. Tide just going down, moon set.

CL: So what about diving Kamu, you ever go diving these days?

SK: Ah diving not too much nowadays. I used to dive a lot but that's when all the old timers was. I was the stringer, just pull the string with all the fish the end. Used to dive from in the back the church, Kalapana church. Dive all the way down to Lady's Point. Then we come up. Or sometime we go from Lady's Point, we dive all the way up to in the back the church. Cause that way more hard. Cause we fighting the current going out. I used to dive from the rubbish dump, Kalapana rubbish dump.

CL: Up by Will's?

SK: Up by Will's. From Will's go all the way down to Kaimu. We dive all the way that side. Plenty fish--I mean haad fish, lotta fish. But nowadays I hardly dive because the water jam up my ears. I no like dive anymore. Maybe small kind can jump in the water all right. Go down deep, oh my ear like pop. I hardly do any more diving. That's why you don't see my goggles or spears around. Only get poles and throw nets and net.

CL: So you never went in the Park side for diving.

SK: Diving, yeah we used to dive Apua. Apua had plenty fish too. Apua fast the shark come in yeah. So I no go dive too much over there. Keauhou I go dive. Halape. And that time Halape and Keauhou, Apua like that when you dive over there first time you get all scared because all the fish come to you yeah. You get all scared because what this fish here. Sometime a big school manini or big school nenu just come right up to you. You don't know if you _____. Whack this, string em on, whack the next one. Maybe ten in one place you can just stay in the water right there and just shoot em. After twenty or ten then you gotta be awake because blood in the water. The shark e come quick over there. The current over there pretty good current that's why. Strong.

CL: At Apua?

SK: Apua. After I seen the shark, I never like. I no go back inside there. And you know he come out of the water, it's only about like this deep, two feet. His whole fins and everything's is all outside. He's coming out of the water. He like looking where the smell coming.

CL: When you go [fishing do you ever pick up hā`uke`uke?] (end of tape 2 side b)

Side B

SK: Sometime I bring home for the family. You know, the old folks they like all those kind of sea urchins yeah. And they like those,

they like hā'uke`uke. They usually put in their order hā'uke`uke.

Or you can get some `ōkole. Or if you get chance, you guys can make wana. That's the only time I make, when the old folks was there because they always ask for their favorites. Instead of anything else they like the hā'uke`uke.

CL: So today, no more?

SK: Ah, I don't do that thing because I don't have all the old folks. All the old folks gone so....

CL: Young ones don't care for it anymore.

SK: Oh we do. I take these kids and sometimes they just sit down there and eat. Let em eat. Then get pupu, pick all those, boil em up then pick up kupe'e. They like pipipi eh, kupe'e, big ones. I go down....

CL: At night I think....

SK: Yeah, certain time of the night come out. Like we pick like about two gallons. Who get a chance to go down there I give em, give em some. Now days hardly any old folks eh, so I teaching these young ones how to eat these things. When we go down these two boys they pick up and they fill up their bags and when they come home, they eat only one bag or half bag, the rest throw em in the freezer.

CL: So that's at Keauhou where you get that.

SK: Ah yeah, Keauhou. I pick up from Keauhou. All along side the sand, all in the front there.

CL: So Kamu, if you could let's say for fishing these days in the Park, I want to ask you about three purposes. For home use, for parties, or for sale. which of those three do you do?

SK: Home use and the kind, at party or funeral.

CL: Not for sale.

SK: No, I never did. All the time I go down I don't, I don't feel right to sell it. But I catch guys inside there. They go down there just to pick and sell. So I get my cellular phone and I just call the ranger up. They send somebody down to give em ticket or warn em or something. Cause we go only down there to, it's not an everyday thing but just like once a year if maybe one of my auntie or uncle die and I can tell what they need, what they can pick up outside here. I can go in there. I volunteer to take care the fish, I take care the opihi, I take care the crab, stuff like that. And I go call my captain up and we get together and I call the

boys up and we go down on the boat. Automatic overnight or in and out. If opihi only we just go down and pick that opihi and come home. Or throw net, come right back. But if we stay overnight, we go pick up to get crab and stuff like that for the, either the party or the funeral.

CL: What would you say is more common for you, to go down for fishing for home use or for parties?

SK: Most for party. Home use, or funeral like that, that's when I go down there to go pick up for the family like that. But for sale, aw, never did go down there use the boat for sell. We just use the boat for, like this guy auntie, or that guy baby party or the next guy, that's the only time I go down. But home use, once in awhile okay. We just go down and get something for us eat. And if I like opihi, okay, we go down, we go pick opihi then. So we go spend the night. That way we can get nighttime kind and daytime fish eh. Catch menpachi, right in the front get lot of menpachi so. All for home use.

CL: And then I want to ask you about some various kinds of stuff. I want you to compare fishing in the Park versus fishing outside the Park. Like at Kapoho or wherever. Let's do fish in the Park versus fishing elsewhere for opihi.

SK: The Park most had the variety. Outside of the Park, it's just that, oh you don't need this, you no need that because you only going down for Nenua or whatever you can catch outside there to catch. But not as like you go in there you catch variety, what you want to catch. Even though you throwing net, you still going catch mixed plate. Then you take what you like. The rest you throw back inside.

CL: So for throw net too, you would go more in the Park?

SK: Ah not now, not anymore but like only occasionally that somebody party, then we go on the boat, then we go that side too.

CL: So maybe throw net more outside.

SK: Outside here, yeah. Most throw net outside here nowadays. Cause I cannot drive all the way over the other side. There's no place for throw net. It's all pole fishing, reel and everything eh.

CL: For opihi, do you ever....

SK: Outside here, nothing.

CL: Nothing. That's what I thought.

SK: One guy take today, the next guy tomorrow. So right over

there he look underneath the stone, he pick the one the guy left in the back the day before. Almost everything raided you know. Like in the Park you get more chance because they cannot go in there and pick everything like. At least get chance you know, get chance for pick.

CL: What about for ulua? Is there any place you would go outside the Park today?

SK: I go up at Will's, I throw. Yeah, I still go up there I throw, throw my ulua poles and I spend the night down there. Same time I catch menpachi overnight.

CL: So would you say you do more outside for ulua than in the Park?

SK: For now, yeah, because I get no choice inside there. To drive all the way inside there is, because not every time you can catch as you go inside there you know. It's not every day your lucky day. It's a lot for put that much gas for drive over.

CL: If the road was put back through, would it be different?

SK: Yeah, just for cruise all right. I mean not, maybe you go fishing but it's just that the road go through, it's all your fishing lifelihood. You only can look and bypass because it's changed, changed the whole ground. The whole place is not like how before.

CL: What about for `a`ama?

SK: Those `a`ama?

CL: Yeah, where would you go for that?

SK: I would go Apua, Keauhou. Not out here. Out here they don't get a chance to come like this, big. Cause the guy content to leave em like this, the next guy come, he pick em. Then you going get all small ones. Just to gathering all the crabs and stuff, I do things all inside the Park. For home use kind or party kind or funeral kind. Most time funeral kinds. Oh auntie, uncle died, okay. I take care that part.

CL: So how important to you is the special access, the special Kalapana rights in the Kalapana extention?

SK: It's good. You know you get, you still get something in there yet when you want to go get. I know that because I go a lot so I know how much for take out and what. Enough is enough and that's the only best place in there.

CL: So you're careful not to take too much.

SK: Yeah. But although you no take too much or you take plenty, the place is just automatic, just come back. I know. I used to pick opihi at the first parking stall before, when the road used to open. Just outside Waha`ula, the first parking stall and the second one, before. I know that we used to pick like two gallons right off the road, right there. Half an hour. And we leave back all the small ones and everything and within about three months you go back there we take another two gallon out of there. And it still have opihi, just like was the home of the opihi right there.

CL: Cause other people must have been picking there too eh?

SK: Not too much guys know that place. And they cannot go down, too high. The only way down to go down it was with rope.

CL: Oh you were going with rope.

SK: Rope, we was doing rope. So it's automatic. It's like how much you take out, that's how much you put back. Come back. Just like that's the home of the opihi. I think the place was called Aikua I think was.

CL: I know that place. That was a place for pipi ulua too yeah.

SK: Yeah, pipi ulua too yeah. I used to catch big ones over there.

CL: So would you say there are some certain seasons when you would fish more in the Park? Or not.

SK: No.

CL: I got a question here that I think I could answer but I'm going to ask you. It's why do you go fishing in the Park?

SK: Why I go fishing. I was brought up inside the Park. I know where is all the fish holes and it's not like out here. Out there you don't have the feeling like inside there. I don't fish all the way out here anyway. I don't care too much.

CL: Out to `Opihikao....

SK: It's not my district on that side. Like Kalapana, all it's my district so I can, I get more feeling fishing down there then Opihikao, Kapoho, all that. Why now I go Opihikao, Kapoho now cause my fishing spot at Kalapana gone. And it's, only time I go Keauhou, Halape like that, when something come up. Then I go down there. But other from that I have a choice, I go over there. But I usually, I don't like to go fish all that place cause I guess that everybody, they get their own zone. Me I born and raised Kalapana so that's my district so I can go all over there. I get

more feeling fishing. Like if I come Kapoho side I go throw net inside all daytime. I no go nighttime. Kalapana I can go day and night, either place you know. I feel comfortable and no place else can support me as down there for fishwise. That's why I like the fishing down that side. Cause I was born and raised over there and I know all the currents, I know all the tide, I know all the places. I feel safe. Not like, out here I don't feel safe. Although I fished all my life but I don't like to fish out there because it's not my ground. Everybody has their own district for fish.

CL: Is it also something to do with that belongs to others.

SK: Yeah, yeah. Be crowded eh? you had your own people for go throw net their side. Kalapana, they get their own. Kapoho used to get their own. I guess that no other place so just have to go here and there go fish.

CL: Well maybe we'll stop for now. I've got plenty. (end of interview)

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- p.15 today only throws net for moi, no more straight pole
- p.15-17 ulua-w. modern pole, w. ohia stick at Keauhou (2 locations--at the pali to the east, at arch to the west)
pipi ulua--used to go behind Catholic church in Kalapana w. William Peleiholani/ strict
- 17-18 slide-bait ulua
- p.19 they're catching moi, `akule w. lamp at 20M now
- p.20 throws net for nenuue at Kapoho
tricks for throw-net--when tide going out, at sunrise best
late 60s (no job)--went to `Apua w. dad on horse for moi, came back and iced it, sold in Hilo
- p.21 salt, limu lobster
- p.22 takes nets to Keauhou--crossnet for fish (bouble skirt w. 2 1/2" an 4" eye), crossnet for lobster (4" eye), thrownets for u_u (2 1/4 " eye), holehole (2 1'2 " eye), moi and nenui (3" eye), just paipai the crossnet and take it up
- p.23 diving--used to be the stringer for oldtimers at Kalapana
can't dive now because bad ears
used to dive at `Apua, Keauhou, Halap_
- p.24 used to make h`uke`uke, `kole, wana_ for the old folks
today makes pupu, kupe`e, pipipi for kids
- p.25 going by boat for parties--camping at Keauhou

p.25-6 park v. outside for fishing

p.26 picking `opihi before at first parking stall (`Aikua)

p.26-7 `Opihikao and Kapoho not his district, prefers to fish
Kalapana and park