

**CULTURAL HISTORY
OF
KAPA'A QUARRY**

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FOR
AMERON HC&D**

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For Ameron HC&D (Kapa'a Quarry)
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Ameron HC&D's Kapa'a Quarry is located on the eastern side of the southern windward division of the Ko'olau Mountain Range, called "Ko'olau Poko" or "Short Ko'olau." The quarry is located on the slopes below the 995-foot high "Ulumāwao" peak or "Growth at Forest."

"Kapa'a" meaning "The Solid or Closed," lies within the ancient "'ili" land division of "Ka 'Ōhi'a," which translates to "The 'Ōhi'a Lehua Trees are Tabooed."

Ka 'Ōhi'a 'ili falls within the larger "'ahupua'a" land division of "Kailua," meaning "Two Seas or Two Sea Currents." Kailua is a land rich in legend, history, and landmarks famous from times of old. Kailua was a peaceful place, it was the favorite recreational meeting place of O'ahu's ruling chiefs.

At the center of today's bustling plain of 'Ālele (Kula-o-'Ālele) once stood the royal athletic long-house arena of Kākuhihewa, O'ahu's most famous ruling chief. The royal fishponds were located inland. To the south are the remnants of "Ka'elepulu," "The Moist Blackness," today called Enchanted Lake. Ka'elepulu's famous waters once teemed with fat 'Ama'ama, Awa, Ahole, and 'O'opu fish, and great amounts of surface-growing "limu kala-wai," "edible algae grass. "To the north is "Kawainui," "The Great Water," today called a marsh land.

The vast expanse of Kawainui was once rich with the delectably fat mudfish 'O'opu ku'ia. The 'O'opu was lured by the famous mythological Mākālei tree, the supernatural fish-attracting tree transplanted by the ancients from Pali'uli, Hilo. The broad silent waters of Kawainui were once guarded by the mo'o-goddess Hauwahine. Its waters concealed the astonishing "lepo 'ai 'ia," "the edible mud," an amazing food resembling haupia pudding in texture and poi kalo in color. The lepo 'ai 'ia was harvested only in taboo silence, and once was respectfully gathered for King Kamehameha-the-Great. The truly incredible lepo 'ai 'ia was brought from the pillars of Kahiki by famed Kailua Chief Ka-ulu-a-kalana who placed it in Kawainui.

Poised in silent vigil at Kawainui's side is the heiau temple mound "Ulupō," or "Night Inspiration," which was built by the mythical "menehunes," a legendary race of industrious night-working little people of ancient times.

Standing mountain-ward above Kawainui in the misty distance is pleasant Kapa'a, revered land of legendary ruler of Kailua, Olopana.

Today's Kapa'a Quarry occupies the former site of the ancient stone adze-head producing quarry of the same name. The Hawaiian civilization depended upon the stone adze as a necessary construction tool to produce religious images, build native homes and houses of worship, produce agricultural tools, manufacture weapons of war, and to miraculously carve and shape the all-important fishing canoes and the impressively large double-hulled voyaging canoes which attained lengths of 120 feet and more.

Today, Ameron's Kapa'a Quarry operation continues the legacy that the ancient Kapa'a Quarry provided old Hawai'i's first builders, by producing refined construction material used in modern Hawai'i's building industry.

As responsible lessees of over 400 acres of Castle Trust land, occupying much of Ka 'Ōhi'a 'ili, Ameron takes a caring view of this portion of the historic Kailua 'ahupua'a and its treasured sites and legendary past. Ameron has demonstrated a meaningful commitment to discovering and preserving historic ancient sites which fall under the geographic purview of its operation.

One such site is an ancient "heiau" or religious temple situated just above the original site of the old adze quarry. It is a large, walled structure measuring approximately 120 feet by 180 feet with an adjoining structure on the northern wall of 32 feet by 38 feet, approximate dimensions. Clearing and cleaning of the site was overseen by Ameron in 1988 and continues to remain under the respectful caretaking of the company.

Said to have been built by the legendary chief Olopana, this heiau is known today as "Pahukini," meaning "Many Drums." However, it was also known by some informants as "Mo'okini," meaning "Many Lineages," and also by "Makini" for "Many Deaths" as derived from the contraction of "Make Kini."

The second and third names suggest that this heiau was of the class designation of "po'okanaka, translated 'human head or skull,' that Pahukini (or Mo'okini or Makini) functioned as a 'luakini,' or large heiau where ruling chiefs prayed, and human sacrifices were offered."

In another demonstration of commitment to preserving Ka 'Ōhi'a's legacy, Ameron voluntarily has extended its care-taking responsibilities to conserving elements of the natural living environment within the 'ili.

'Ōhi'a lehua shrubs and trees lying in the path of quarry operations are carefully being transplanted by the company to safer surroundings. 'Ōhi'a trees were once used exclusively for temple images, temple posts, houses of worship, and canoe building. It is appropriate that Ameron gives such caring attention to the protection and conservation of trees which were so important to Hawai'i's native builders of old.

It is equally fitting that Ameron purposefully acts to preserve Pahukini. The legacy of Kailua's distant legendary past, this sacred luakini heiau of distinction, which in its silent dignity symbolizes for Ameron, Kapaa'a Quarry's signal importance to both the ancient Hawaiian builders of "yesterday" and the modern building industry of Hawai'i "today."

