Notes & Queries

The Līhuʻe Place Name on Kauaʻi

SUBMITTED BY M. PUAKEA NOGELMEIER

One of the articles in the 2012 Hawaiian Journal of History is “The Līhuʻe Place Name on Kauaʻi” by Pat L. Griffin. While researching in the online archive of Hawaiian language newspapers, I found an unsigned editorial on page 1 of the February 12, 1876 edition of Ka Nupepa Kuokoa that provides additional information on the place name Līhuʻe, Kauaʻi, and credits its naming to Kaikíoʻewa. I translated several passages from the article, which was titled “Na Hiohiona o Lihue,” or “The General Appearance of Lihue.”

Na Hiohiona o Lihue

I ka wa a kamahele i maalo mai ia Kauai, he wahi ano kula wale iho no o Lihue, a ma Kalaialamea kahi halepule kahi i ku ai, he wahi hale pili no ia. O Kukuiokahea ma kona aoao komohana akau, ma kai pono o ke alanui, e holo no ka wailele o Wailua i uka, a oia kahua nae i kela manawa ; aole ia i keia wa ; ina e ninau ia o kahi o ka halepule kahiko i ku ai, alaila, e loaa ma ka “Hikina akau ae.”

He wahi kiko uku wale iho o Lihue O Kapuahola, a me Paiaa ka ulu kukui kaulana o ua wahi nei, a o Hulaia ka inoa i hoomahie iaʻe e

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ka poe ka ea- ea kako ihi hala e aku nei! Ua puana ia’e lakou penei; “Aloha kukui poahaaha o Hulaia!” A pela io no ia kau aku la ho i paha. I ka wa a ka moku e maalo ae ai — ua hooikeike mai ia mau ka hoaka ia oe. I keia wa hoi a kamahale e ike aku nei, aole i kana mai, ka nee ana’e, o ua wahi kiko iki nei a mahuahua loa. Eia kona nani la! I ke ano ahiahi mua aku nei keokeo a maikai na pua ko, loloa a nunui na ko e ulu ana a ke wili ia nei na ko i keia wa! Mawaena o na makahiki 24 a’u i ike ai, ua pahola ae la oia a mahuahua loa, no na kumu hea wahi a ka mea ninau. No ua kumu e like me he ano mikiala, a pela wale aku no hoi. Ua 20 1/2 paha na tona i keia pule aku nei. Ma ka Poalua ka wili ana o ke ko Dekemaba 7: A e hoounaia ma ka Manuokawai i Honolulu i keia la 13 o Dekemaba 1875. O ka hoomaka ana ia! Alaila o ka mahuahua aku auanei koe. E like no auanei me kona ano kiko mua. Mamua i ka wa o Hon. R. C. Wale, o Hanalei maluna ae, a o Koloa iho, a o Lihue ano! Aole e launa mai o Hanalei aina anuanu.

Aia ponoi no o Lihue i kapa ponoia e Kaikioewa e keia manawa, ma ka komohana akau mai ka hale kuai o ka poe nona o Lihue i keia wa. Malaila e ku ana he hale ai no ka poe paahana no Mr W. H. Rice ia, a o ka wai ma ka hulina alo o ka hale wili ko mai o Malamanui no ia mai kona aaao hikina akau mai o ka hale wiliko.

A oia mau wahi la pau, i keia manawa e noho nei, he ko wale no ia wahi apau a koe wale no kahi o Kaikioewa i noho ai. He hale aina ia i keia wa ma kahi hoi i oleloia no na kukui poaha-aha o Hulaia.

When travelers pass through Kauai, Lihue is only plains, and at Kalai- alamea is where a church stood, a thatched structure. Kukuiokaha is on its northwest side, seaward of the road that runs to the waterfall of Wailua, inland. That foundation of that time is not there now. If you ask where the old church stood, you’ll find it to “the northeast”. Lihue is merely a small spot of Kapuahola and Paiaa, the famed kukui grove of that place, and Hulaia is the name honored by the champions who praised the hala before! This was recited by them, “Beloved are the circling kukui trees of Hulaia!” And it may have been so in later eras. When ships would pass by, those vistas would be pointed out to you. Nowadays the traveler sees the incredible expansion of that little spot to great size. Here is its beauty! In the still of the last evening, the cane blossoms were a fine white, the cane long and large and cane is being milled now! In the 24 years I’ve seen it, it has expanded to great size, and for what reasons, one might ask. Because of lively endeavor and such. There were 20 1/2 tons last week. Cane was milled on Tuesday, December 7, and will be sent by the Manuokawai to Honolulu on the
13th of December 1875. And that is the start! It will continue to grow and expand. It will be like its original little spot. Before, in the time of R. C. Wyllie, Hanalei was above, then Koloa, and now Lihue! Hanalei is unmatched as a cold land.

Lihue, which was personally named by Kaikioewa, is at this time, right there on the northwest from the store of the folks who own Lihue now. There stands a dining hall for the laborers of Mr. W. H. Rice, and the water at the front side of the sugar mill is called Malamanui from its range on the northeast side of the mill.

And that entire area, at this point in time, is all sugar cane throughout, excepting where Kaikioewa lived. It is a dining hall now, at the place mentioned, for the encircling kukui groves of Hulaia. . . .