

Reference Material: United States Pacific Fleet

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers
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**UNITED
STATES
PACIFIC
FLEET**



THE ISLAND OF KAHOO LAWE FROM THE BEGINNING

The Island of Kahoolawe is situated in the lee of Mt. Haleakala. Winds flow by and over Haleakala and thereby lose the water they have picked up from the trough of the tradewinds and the Japan Current. Kahoolawe in this situation never has had adequate water to sustain human habitation.

In a book written by S. M. Kamakau entitled Ruling Chiefs of Hawaii there are a few references to Kahoolawe but none indicating any considerable importance except as a point of departure for fishing craft. At pages 356-357 in Kamakau's book there is the following reference to Kahoolawe showing that it had in early days, before the time of the Great Mahele, been made a penal colony and Lanai also, in part, was included. "To this island were committed law breakers to punish them for such crimes as rebellion, theft, divorce, breaking marriage vows, murder and prostitution. Kahoolawe was the prison for the men and there was no protection for them; the government furnished them with food, but they suffered with hunger and some died of starvation and some few in the sea. Death by starvation was so much more common than by sea that some of the prisoners swam at night from Kahoolawe to Honua'ula, stealing canoes from the

people there and paddling to 'Olowalu where they stole food at night." The important reference from Kamakau is quoted on the attached and shows that although all the other islands except Kahoolawe and parts of Lanai were occupied and capable of producing crops and food, Kahoolawe never had any permanent inhabitants. The fact that all the other islands were heavily populated, often to the extent of interisland and intervalley warfare for food, indicates that the Hawaiians must have made conscientious and even desperate efforts to convert Kahoolawe into a place of human habitation. However, it's clear that these efforts never were successful. It is probable that during short periods, when the first settlers landed on Kahoolawe, they may have erected their temples or heeiaus. Ruins of these would still be found in a few places on Kahoolawe. Ruins of the fishing heiaus are found in various places, but this makes no substantial comparison of Kahoolawe with the islands that were capable of sustaining human population.

There is a small portion of Lanai that rises to 3,300 feet. This raised the breezes high enough to cause some fresh water precipitation when tall trees were planted and established.

However, the highest point of Kahoolawe is 1,477 feet. The island also is more in the lee of Mt. Haleakala and is more

fully deprived of moisture in the Trade Winds.

The Great Service of Kahoolawe

So whereas Kahoolawe will not be able to provide agriculture, it has a really great mission:

Kahoolawe provides an economical part for the wonderful and most essential National Defense System.

Our bombs and artillery without this most serviceable Defense factor (training) would be inadequate to protect and save our nation from hostile Soviet assault.

Use of Kahoolawe for National Defense

Although the ordinary leasehold, commercial and agricultural activities could never exist on Kahoolawe, the island has proved to be a wonderful place to train aviators and other types of troops. In the Pacific we have a number of aircraft carriers. Hundreds of young men flying the planes have to be taught how to bomb accurately, how to deliver their bombs and engage in evasive action in order to avoid enemy missiles. This requires very thorough training.

For some years the Soviets have been increasing the number of ships of their Navy and planes of their Air Force throughout the Pacific. They had been considering Saipan, the Palaus, Truk, Western Samoa, Tonga and various other places in order to

establish fishing bases and canneries, but more particularly for the purpose of creating hostile Pacific fleet bases.

The responsibility of the Department of Defense and our Armed Forces to maintain the freedom of the ocean lanes is a very serious one. From my experience as High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands for two years I am very certain that the buildup of the strength of all Soviet forms of warfare in the Pacific has been going on rapidly and is a serious menace. We have to maintain equality. To become No. 2 in strength would invite sudden disaster.

For all these reasons it is recommended that people of responsibility for the safety and growth of our nation and responsible for peace in the Pacific must not jeopardize the Navy's required training.

Frank E. Midkiff

Frank E. Midkiff

February 10, 1977

wide and two stories in height, with big glass windows. Such was the memorial built by Ulu-maheihē and his family in Lahaina to honor their own names and the name of their teacher, the Rev. William Richards. Another notable achievement was the erecting of the fort to guard the village against rioting from the whalers and foreign ships and from law breakers. Here were deposited the weapons of war, the great cannon, the shoulder guns, the rifles, the swords, the powder, as in the days of Kamehameha. It was at this same time that the stone church called Kalani-kahua of which Armstrong (Limaikaika) was the pastor was built at Ha'iku. After his return from Nu'uhiwa where nothing could be accomplished, it was proposed to place missionaries in the country districts, and Ulu-maheihē went with Armstrong and others for this purpose. There was already a large church erected by Kahale'ohu, but later Ulu-maheihē urged the building of a stone church, and that called Kalani-'ohua was built by Ka-'auwai and others. He ordered Wahie, the *hono-hiki* who was over Hana district, to build a large church at Kuakaha on Ka'uiki. So [also] at Ka'anapoli and on Molokai. Ulu-maheihē became noted for his activity in church building and in spreading the word of God. A chief of true piety was Ulu-maheihē and he died in the faith of life through the sinless blood of Jesus Christ the beloved son of God.

When Kina'u died there was no one to take her place as premier. According to the old custom, if a ruling chief had no children of his own, the child whom he took to bring up and whom he had trained became his heir and succeeded to his position; even a child so taken by the king, if he had no child of his own, would succeed to the kingship. But Victoria Ka-mamalu whom Kina'u had retained to bring up was but five months old at the time of Kina'u's death. The king therefore looked for a premier among the blood kin of Ka-'ahu-manu who had been premier for Kamehameha I and Kamehameha II, and selected Miriam Ke-ka-ulu-ohi-o-Mano for this office, and she became premier during the time of Kamehameha III, when the first constitutional law was made for Hawaii.* She was an intelligent premier, careful in her decisions, but she was easily led by those who were flatterers and speech makers.

Here are some of the events of her time. She made Kahoolawe and Lanai penal settlements for law breakers to punish them for such crimes as rebellion, theft, divorce, breaking marriage vows, murder, and prostitution. Kahoolawe was the prison for the men and there was no protection for them; the government furnished them with food, but they suffered with hunger and some died of starvation and some fell in the sea. Death by starvation was so much more common than by sea that some of the prisoners swam at night from Kahoolawe to Honua'ia, stole a

* Ke Au 'Okō'a, Feb. 4, 1869.

canoe from the people there, paddled to Ulu-melane and 'Olowalu, stole food at night and went back again to Kahoolawe. Those who were being punished for adultery filled the canoe with food and paddled for Lanai, where, rounding the cliff of Kaholo and Kaumalopau, they landed at Ka'ena where was the large tract of land called Ka'a where the women were imprisoned who were being punished for adultery, and some of the men took their women and ran away with them to the mountains of Maui. This was a notable event of Ke-ka-ulu-ohi's time. Some petty chiefs were sentenced to Kahoolawe, namely Ka-nuha and Kini-maka. Ka-nuha was saved through the influence of Kua-kini the governor of Hawaii, but Kini-maka was sent to Kahoolawe. He was the son of Kahiko-loa, and his father was Kapi-iwi; he was younger brother of Ho'olulu and they were younger relatives of Ulu-maheihē. It was through Ulu-maheihē's written command that he was condemned as a rebel and sentenced to ten years on Kahoolawe, but after seven years he was pardoned. The law in those days was never very clear and left one to grope in the dark.

Another noted event of Miriam Ke-ka-ulu-ohi's time was the coming of the war ship *L'Artemise*, commanded by Laplace, sent by the government of France (at that time ruled by Louis Phillipe) because of the persecution of the Roman Catholic priests and their disciples under the Hawaiian government. Some of the charges made were not true, but many were witnesses of the cruel treatment they had received. It was reported that the women were undressed to the skin, tied to a post, and whipped with ropes, and other things were done bitter to recall. Pictures of the people being beaten with ropes and of the persons who were imprisoned were published in some of the newspapers by the foreigners living at the capital of Honolulu, and the reason for their persecution was made clear by Mr. Jones, the consul for America. These doings were reported to the French government, and a warship was sent commanded by Commodore du Petit-Thouars, a high official of the French government, and a treaty made with the king. After the commodore left the persecution still went on, as is shown not only by written reports but by the testimony of eye witnesses, and two years later the warship *L'Artemise* arrived, commanded by Captain Laplace, a man well known for stirring up trouble by hasty action and making reprisals upon weaker peoples. His charges were perhaps true, but were there not other reasons for his drastic action? Had not the matter something to do with the advantage the government of France hoped to gain from trade with Hawaii? The treatment of the Catholic priests was no new policy; it began as much as ten years before the government of France interfered for freedom for the teaching of the Catholic faith, affirming that persecuting

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6 Marines injured in shell blast. (1977, February 11). *San Diego Tribune*.

RELEASED LATE 10 FEB 1977 BY JOINT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICES,
CAMP PENDLETON:

Camp Pendleton CA--Seven marines were injured, one seriously, this afternoon when an unidentified piece of unexploded ordnance was accidentally detonated during the routine sweep of one of the range areas here.

The marines, all members of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit, were flown by helicopter to the Navy Regional Medical Center here for treatment.

Details of the accident and the extent of injuries are unavailable at this time and the names of injured are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

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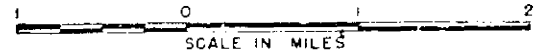
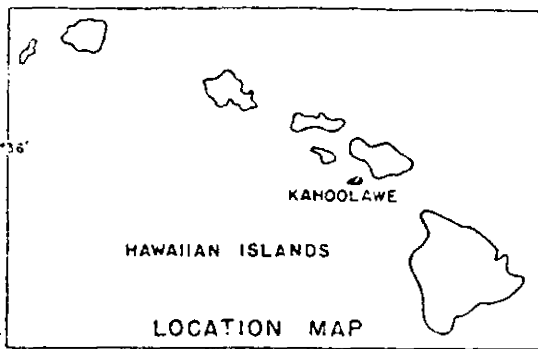
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Tragedy at Pendleton. (1976, January 6). *San Diego Tribune*.

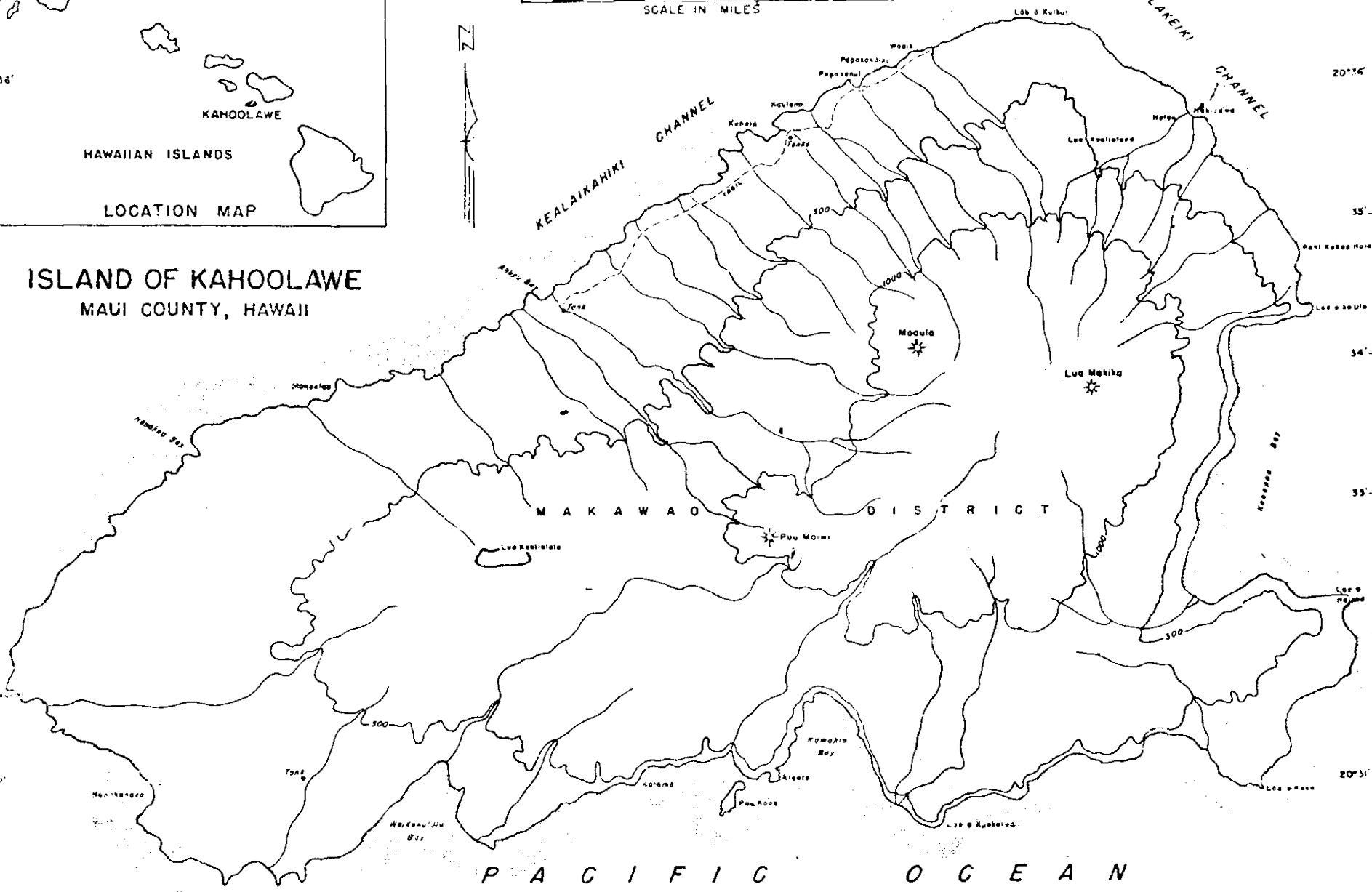
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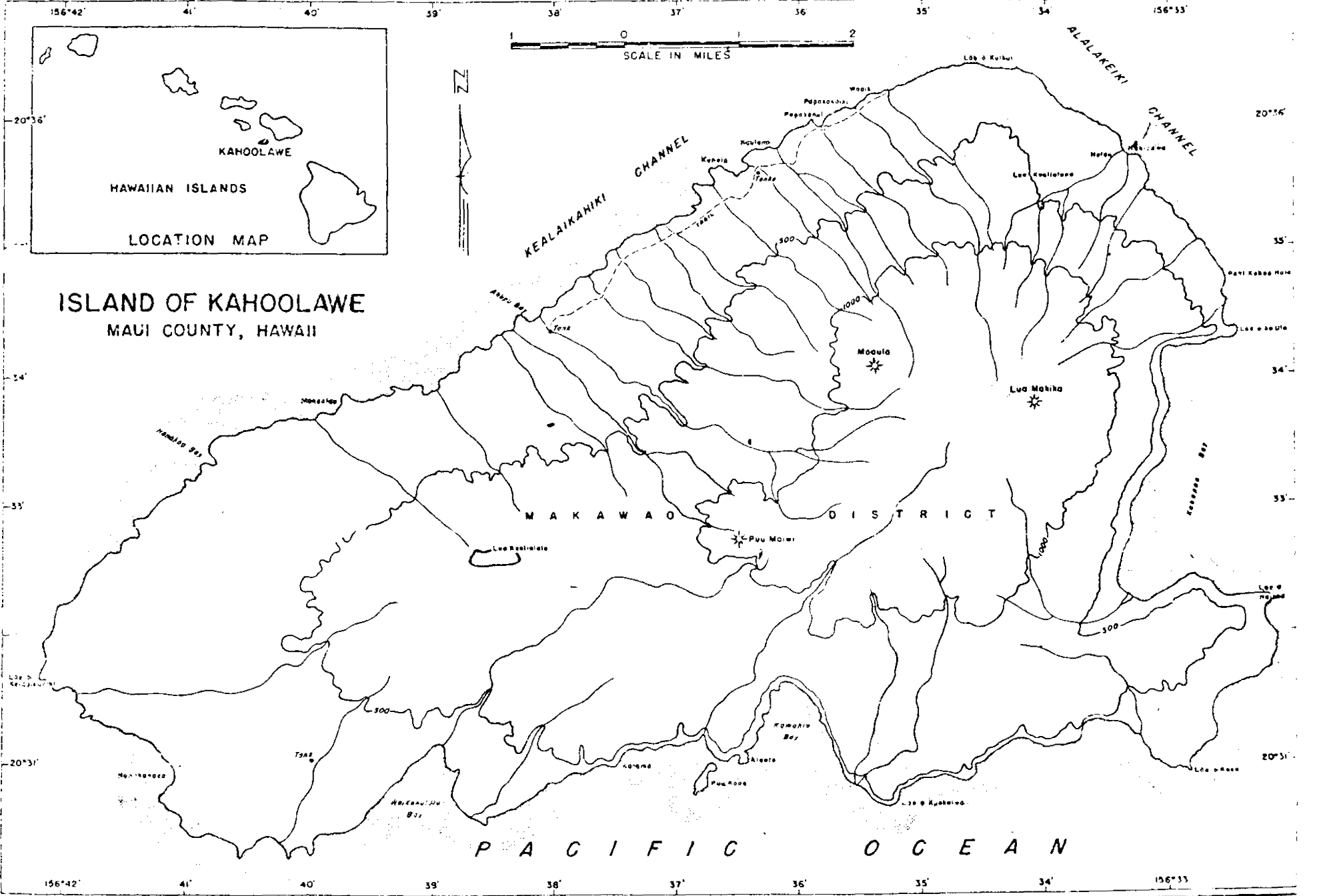
Pendleton Campground Blast kills 2 Youngsters. (1975, January 2). *San Diego Union*.



ISLAND OF KAHOOLAWÉ
MAUI COUNTY, HAWAII



P A C I F I C O C E A N



KURE
U. S. NAVAL STATION
MIDWAY ISLAND
PEARL AND
HERMES REEF

LISIANSKI,

LAYSAN

MARO
REEF

GARDNER
PINNACLES

FRENCH
FRIGATES
SHOAL

NECKER

NIHOA

LEHUA
NIHAU
KAUAI

KAUAI

OHAIU

HONOLULU

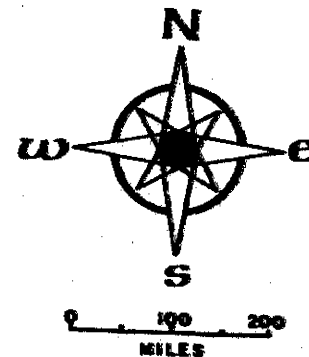
MOLOKAI

LANAI

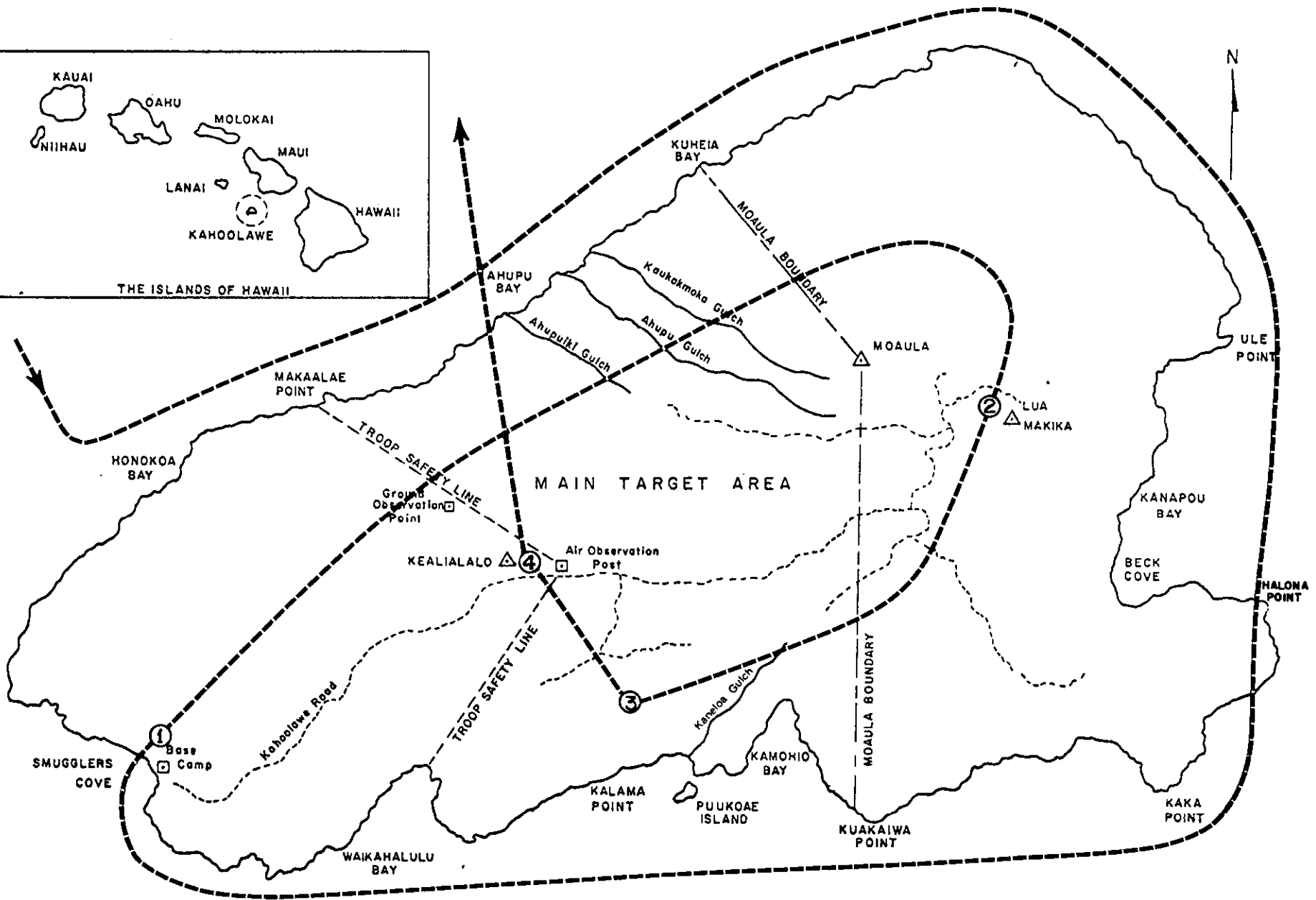
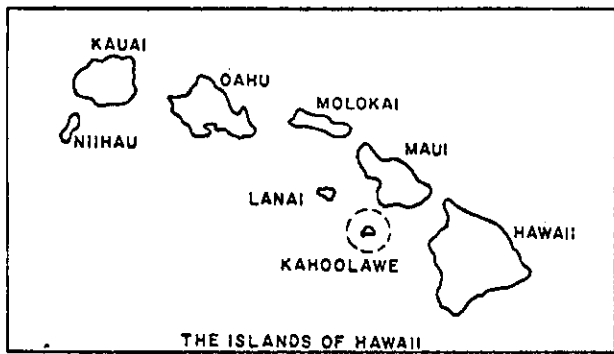
MAUI

KAHOOLAWE

HAWAII



The HAWAIIAN ISLANDS



KAHOOLAWE ISLAND