

## **Aloha ia Wahi a Kākou e Noho Ai**

*Beloved is the Place Where We Live*

Lanikai is a developer's name. It was given in 1924 to the Kailua land division that had been known to Hawaiians since the 16th century as Ka'ōhāo. Today, the Lanikai Community Association, founded just three years after the creation of the beach lot subdivision, speaks of the old Ka'ōhāo as “a windswept plain covered with native grasses and overlooked by treeless mountains.” Its earliest permanent residents were Japanese immigrant watermelon farmers who, “lacking potable water, irrigated their crops with brackish water pumped by windmills.”

Hawaiians themselves spoke of Ka'ōhāo in quite different terms. Their nūpepa, their Hawaiian language newspapers of the mid-to-late 19th century, tell of a storied Ka'ōhāo past: of the consecration of a newborn chief destined to rule the island, of the departure of canoe fleets from the shores of a royal residence, of the presence of a stream that curved its way through a pandanus grove, of a training ground for warriors, of a house for kōnane competitions, and of nights lit by the fires of countless imu. lit by the fires of countless imu.

More prosaically, these nūpepa also give evidence that Ka'ōhāo, even in the half-century immediately preceding the onset of Lanikai, was something other than a desolate back-county. For example, the three articles below describe the much-loved beachside residence of Eiluene (Edwin) and Mariah Boyd, prominent members of Hawaiian society in the 1860s and '70s. The first article – “Hale Nui” – details the appearance of the house itself. The second – “Olelo Hoolaha” – is one of several published by Mariah as a warning to neighbors who allowed their livestock to wander into and presumably damage her property. And the third – “Kanikau Aloha” – is excerpted from a much longer lament, composed by Eiluene's wife and children upon his passing. Taken together, the three require a shift in perspective, a reassessment of geographies, a re-membering of an almost dismembered past.

### 1. Hale Nui

He hale nui keia ma keia kuaaina, no Eiluene H. Boyd, aia ma Kaohao, he 42 kapuai ka loa, he 30 kapuai ka laula, o ke kiekie mai kaupaku o luna ahiki ilalo he 24 kapuai, elua hale iluna a ilalo, hookahi no oa mai kaupaku a hiki i ka lanai, he holoou ke ano, ma ka nana ana aku. O ka hale nui hookahi keia ma keia wahi.

### Big House

There is a big house in this rural area belonging to Eiluene [Edward] H. Boyd. It is at Ka'ōhāo. It is 42 feet long and 30 feet wide. The height of the roof from top to bottom is 24 feet; there are two hale (floors, residences) above and below, with a single roof-line from the ridgepole to the lanai, so that it appears to flow together. It is the only big house in this area.

## 2. Olelo Hoolaha

E ike auanei na kanaka a pau o kela a me keia ano, ke papa ia aku nei lakou a pau loa, aole e hookuu wale i ko lakou mau holoholona maloko o kuu Pa Aina ma Kaohao, Kailua, Koolaupoko, Oahu. A ina e loa aku i kuu luna kekahi holoholona a kekahi poe maloko o ua Pa Aina nei, e hoouku ia aku no \$2 no ke poo hookahi, a ina aole e uku mai, e hoopaa ia ma ka Pa Aupuni. – Maria A. Boyd. Maraki 20, 1877.

## Notice

Be it known to all kanaka of every kind that they are explicitly forbidden from releasing their livestock on my lands at Ka'ōhāo, Kailua, Ko'olaupoko. And if releasing their livestock on my lands at Ka'ōhāo, Kailua, Ko'olaupoko. And if anyone's animals are caught within this property by my foreman, the owners will be fined two dollars per head, and if this fine is not paid, the animals will be confined in the government pound. – Maria A. Boyd, March 20, 1877.

## 3. Kanikau Aloha no Hon. E. H. Boyd

Kuu makuakane kuu makua hoi  
Kuu makuakane mai ke kula o Alele,  
Mai ka la ulili mai i ke one,  
Aloha ia wahi a kakou e noho ai–e,  
I ka hale me ke ehū kai o Kaohao,  
Hanohano makou ia oe–e,  
I ka niau[?] ana iho nei nalo,  
Aia paha oe me he Konauli[?]-e,  
Me ko makuahine i ka malu kukui,  
Auwe! kuu makuakane–e!  
AALAPUNA.

Kuu makuakane kuu makua hoi,  
Kuu makuakane ka ka ua poai hala o Kahaluu–e  
A kakou e holoholo ai i Mokulua–e,  
E ike i ka ia ka i ka laau–e,  
Na ka laau e imi kaia–e,  
Ai wale ka mauwale o uka–e,  
Auwe! kuu makuakane–!  
HIO.

## A Lament for the Honorable E[dwin] H[arbottle] Boyd

My father, my parent  
My father from the plain of 'Ālele  
From the sun glittering on the sand  
Loved is the place where we live  
The home in the sea spray of Ka'ōhāo  
We are honored because of you  
You who have departed quickly, vanished

Perhaps you are with a Konauli [? perhaps a wind name]  
With your mother in the kukui shade  
Alas! my father!

AALAPUNA. [James 'A'alapuna Boyd, a son of Edwin]AALAPUNA. [James  
'A'alapuna Boyd, a son of Edwin]

My father, my parent  
My father from the rain that surrounds the hala trees of Kahalu'u  
From whence we sailed to Mokulua  
To see the fish caught with poles  
It is with poles that fish are sought  
Eaten, swallowed on shore  
Alas! my father!  
HIO. [Mary Hio Boyd, a daughter of Edwin]

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1. *Lanikai Association Directory, 2023*, p. 4.
2. "Hale Nui," *Ka Lahui Hawaii*, April 1, 1875. My translation.
3. "Olelo Hoolaha," *Ka Lahui Hawaii*, April 5, 1877. My translation.
4. 'Ālele: the central plain of Kailua.
5. Mokulua: the two islands offshore of Ka'ōhāo.
6. "Kanikau Aloha no E. H. Boyd," *Kuokoa*, Oct. 16, 1875. My translation.