

# Aina of Aina Haina

By Barbara Del Piano

*Author's note: Many members and friends of the Outrigger have inquired about the history of the two-and-a-half acres of oceanfront property at Aina Haina recently purchased by the Club. Although a partial documentation existed, there was a gap from 1861 to 1925. When I volunteered to fill in the missing pieces I expected to spend a half-day at the Bureau of Conveyance. From previous experience, I believed that as long as one had the Tax Map Key, it was a simple process.*

*I quickly learned that Tax Map Keys go back only to the 1970s. Beyond that, one must plow through shelf after shelf of extremely large and heavy tomes which then refer the researcher to yet another set of tomes.*

*The anticipated morning at the B of C turned into a full month's expedition into fascinating, but sometimes tedious sessions, not only at the B of C, but the State Archives, Library of Hawaii, Bishop Museum, and even First Circuit Court. Fortunately, a professional title researcher came to my aid, pointing me in the right direction when I errantly ventured down a dead end. I am greatly indebted to him for sharing his expertise.*

*Once the original research of land ownership was completed, I was so totally engrossed in the story that I needed to know more about the people involved. This led to yet another journey, through City Directories, telephone books, and miles of microfilm, searching for obituaries and articles about the former owners of our land.*

*When my resources were finally exhausted, I sat down to write the story. I hope you will enjoy reading it as much as I have enjoyed writing it.*



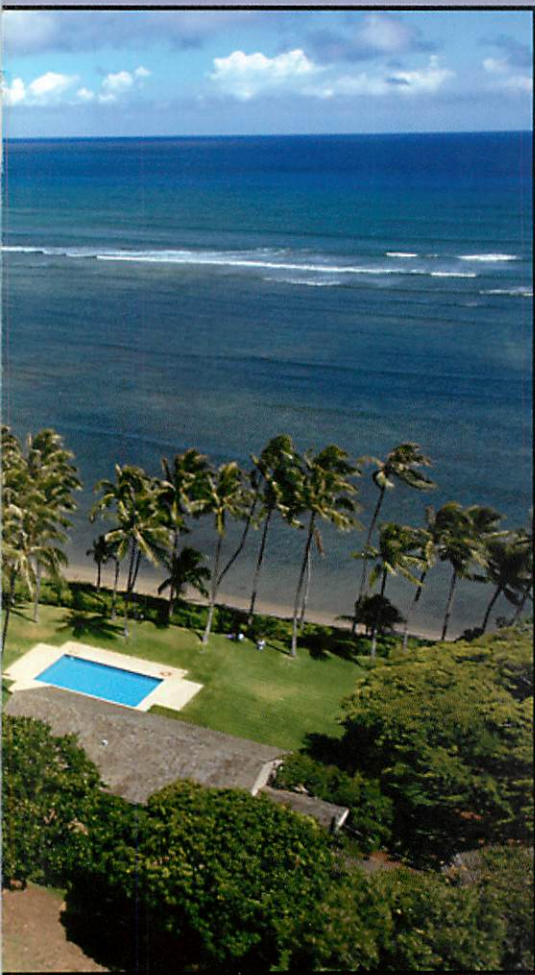
Today, the Outrigger's newly acquired land is in Aina Haina, a fairly recent designation; in ancient times, it was in the *ili* of Wailupe, in the *ahupua'a* of Waikiki. In pre-contact time, Wailupe must have been a thriving community as 40 fishponds are mentioned in the area. Burial caves and remains were found in the mountains. Before archeological remains of Kawauoha heiau were completely destroyed some years ago, there is evidence that human sacrifices were offered there.

When Kamehameha I invaded Oahu in 1795, his victory in the battle of Nuuanu made him the undisputed ruler of Hawaii, Maui, Oahu, Molokai, Lanai, and Kahoolawe. He rewarded the chiefs who fought for him with land. To a chief named Puhiula, he gave the *ili* of Wailupe. Puhiula did not live on the land, but resided on a *kuleana* he acquired in what is now the center of Honolulu. Wailupe probably remained inhabited by the commoners who had lived on it under the previous regime, but who now would pay tribute to Puhiula in the form of fish or produce from the land.

Puhiula was one of more than 500 men who volunteered to accompany the high chief Boki, governor of Oahu, to the New Hebrides in search of sandalwood, leaving his wife, Nua, two sons, Kamaha and Puhiula II, and a daughter, Marian, behind. The ship set out from Honolulu in December of 1829; it was never heard from again.

Kamaha and Puhiula II inherited the land from their father. In the





Aerial view of the  
OCC property in  
Aina Haina.

Great Mahele of 1848, which allowed those possessing land to claim title to it, the ownership of the land was legally recorded for the first time. However, the King, Kamehameha III, had the right to take part of any land so claimed; he chose the largest fishpond and an additional *kula* acre. (The fishpond was eventually filled in and named Wailupe Circle.

When news of the California gold rush hit Honolulu in 1849, Kamaha sailed off to seek his fortunes on the West Coast; he died there about a year later.

It was not until 1861 that Kamaha's will was probated. (No further information could be found on Puihula II.) Kamaha's portion of Wailupe was then awarded to Kamaha's widow, Kaiahua, and nephew, Palekaluhi, his sister's son. Ten years later, in 1871, Palekaluhi sold his inheritance of 1,950 acres for \$2,500. At the time, there were two outstanding mortgages on the land, one to Daniel Dole for \$300 and one to Sanford B. Dole for \$150.

The buyer was Jacinto Pereira, a hardworking, industrious, immigrant from the Azores who arrived in Honolulu in 1876. He soon established himself in his new community, changing his name to Jason Perry. His fiancé,

Anna dos Anjos Henriques, joined him and they married shortly after. The year he purchased the property in Wailupe, his first son, Antonin, was born. Anna and Jason had five more children; Anna, Flora, Inez, Julia and Edward.

After acquiring the land in Wailupe, Perry settled on the oceanfront portion where he built a house and raised cattle; the property was called Wailupe Ranch. Perry also had a dry goods and clothing business in Honolulu and was a prominent leader in the Portuguese community. Serving as the first Portuguese Consul in Hawaii, he helped recruit workers from Madeira to work on the sugar plantations. Perry died in 1883 at the age of 53; his beloved wife, Anna, lived until 1909; at her death, the six children inherited an undivided interest in the land.

Son Antonin appears to be the only one of the children who continued to reside at Wailupe; the girls moved away when they married and started families of their own. Son Edward went to the mainland to attend Harvard and remained there for several years. Antonin, a Punahou graduate, studied law in the offices of Chief Justice Alfred S. Hartwell and was admitted to the bar in 1893, the year of the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy. He married Eugenia Vanderburgh; the couple were parents of two daughters, Eugenia Jacqueline and Gail Antonia. After an illustrious career in the legal profession, Antonin was appointed Chief Justice of the Territorial Supreme Court.

In 1923 the six heirs subdivided the oceanfront property into two tracts of six lots each; each heir received one lot in each tract. The following year, the family sold the land mauka of Kalaniana'ole Highway to Robert Hind, founder of Hind-Clarke Dairy, which became one of Honolulu's largest dairies. In time, the area was named Aina Haina, which means "land of the Hinds."

The oceanfront lots of tract A were called the Pa Haa lots, and Outrigger's future investment consisted of lots four and five, acquired by Flora Perry Sinclair and Temple Bourke respectively. Bourke inherited the land from his deceased wife, Anna Perry Bourke, who passed away in San Francisco in 1913. In her will, she listed among her assets 250 head of cattle, four horses, two mules, two drays, harnesses, saddles, and tools, indicating that the ranch was in operation at the time.

Temple Bourke remarried and he and his new wife, Olga Reed, took up residence at Wailupe. When he passed away in 1956, he left his estate to his widow. As there were no direct heirs, the property was willed to Antonin's two spinster daughters when Olga died in 1970.

Flora Sinclair rented out her property as she and her husband resided in Manoa. After her death in 1965, her daughter Miriam inherited her estate, including the land in Wailupe. In 1979 Miriam sold her lot to Kokudo Keikaku K. K., a Japan corporation, which eventually es-

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# Aina Haina continued

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tablished a corporate retreat on the property. In 1979, the Perry sisters sold their adjoining lot to the same company.

In 2005, inspired by her assignment as liaison for the Historical Committee, and with renegotiation of the Club's lease looming, Outrigger Board member, Stephany Sofos, began to look for land as a profitable investment for the Club which would provide options for the future as well as diversification of its present portfolio. A Honolulu real estate appraiser and consultant, Sofos scoured the coast of Oahu from Sandy Beach to Aiea searching for property "as like" our present home as possible. Her criteria were, first and foremost: fee simple oceanfront land with an area of at least two acres, easy access to the water, ingress and egress from a major road, and one of the most important requirements: that the property have the potential for future development.

With a unanimous Board of Directors staunchly behind her, Sofos found the only available waterfront land in that entire area which met the requirements. Located in Aina Haina, the over two-acre parcel, a rarity in this

age of development, was on the market. After a lengthy period of negotiation, an agreement was reached to purchase the property for \$13.5 million dollars, including closing costs.

The Outrigger Canoe Club will happily remain in its present location for the next 46 years, with no further lease increase. When the lease expires, another generation of Outrigger members will be steering the canoe and deciding the Club's future.

But whatever is in store for it, one thing is certain: the Club will be better positioned to pursue opportunities that will be available at that time. It will have the ability to negotiate for a new home, free from the constraints of leased land and no longer at the mercy of landlords.

In the meantime, Outrigger's Board of Directors is searching for the most profitable use for this sound investment.

Ownership of this land insures that the future of the Outrigger Canoe Club is secure and that it will continue to be a place where the sports of old Hawaii shall always have a home. *Hoe waa mau!*

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