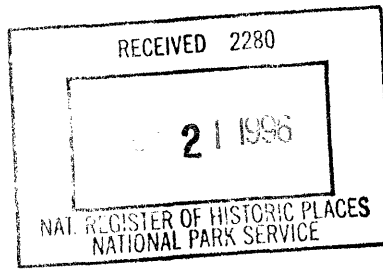


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Kalepolepo Fishpond (Ko'ie'ie Fishpond, Ka'ono'ulu Kai Fishpond)

other names/site number State Inventory 50-50-09-1288; Bishop Museum 50-Ma-C3-1

2. Location

street & number Kihei Road at Kalepolepo County Park  not for publication

city or town Kihei  vicinity

state Hawai'i code HI county Maui code 009 zip code 96753

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Robert A. Coleman-Agaran 11/1/96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Del R. Fugate Date of Action: 12/30/96

Kalepolepo Fishpond  
Name of Property

Maui County, Hawai'i  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
	1	sites
		structures
		objects
	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

SUBSISTENCE / fishing (aquaculture)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

SUBSISTENCE / fishing

RECREATION AND CULTURE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER / Traditional Hawaiian

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_

walls STONE

roof \_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Pacific Islander

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHAEOLOGY: Prehistoric, Historic Aboriginal

INDUSTRY: Traditional aquaculture

MARITIME HISTORY

**Period of Significance**

1500-1880

**Significant Dates**

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Hewahewa, David Malo

**Cultural Affiliation**

HAWAIIAN

**Architect/Builder**

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Kalepolepo Fishpond  
Name of Property

Maui County, Hawai'i  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 3

**UTM References** Old Hawaiian Datum, Clarke 1866 Spheroid  
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

0	4
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7	6	4	2	3	7
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2	2	9	8	3	9	8
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Zone Easting Northing

3 

0	4
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7	6	4	1	7	4
---	---	---	---	---	---

2	2	9	8	1	9	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

2 

0	4
---	---

7	6	4	2	5	2
---	---	---	---	---	---

2	2	9	8	1	3	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

4 

0	4
---	---

7	6	4	1	5	8
---	---	---	---	---	---

2	2	9	8	3	5	1
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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Theresa K. Donham / Maui Island Archaeologist

organization State Historic Preservation Division date April 2, 1996

street & number 130 Mahalani Street telephone (808) 243-5169

city or town Wailuku state Hawai'i zip code 96793

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name State of Hawai'i (Division of Land Management)

street & number 54 South High Street telephone (808) 984-8113

city or town Wailuku state Hawai'i zip code 96793

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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**Kalepolepo Fishpond**

**Description**

Setting - Kalepolepo Fishpond (also named Ka'ono'ulu Kai and Ko'ie'ie) is located along the shoreline of Ka'ono'ulu Ahupua'a, within the traditional district of Kula, Island of Maui. The *ahupua'a* of Ka'ono'ulu is one of six major Kula land divisions which extend from the Ocean to the upper reaches of Haleakala. Ka'ono'ulu is situated near the center of the Kula District, with Pulehunui and Waiakoa to the north and Waiohuli, Keokea and Kama'ole to the south. Ka'ono'ulu is approximately .4 mile wide at the shoreline, and .7 mile wide at Kalepamoa (9,000 ft AMSL). The *ahupua'a* has a maximum width of one mile, which occurs at 800 ft AMSL. Kalepolepo Pond is at the southern boundary of the *ahupua'a*.

The fishpond is situated on a fringing coral reef, with the main portion of the wall following along the outer perimeter of the reef. This type of setting was selected most frequently for the construction of *loko kuapa* (walled ponds), due to wave protection provided by the reef and the presence of a shallow shoal area (Kikuchi 1973: 37).

The presence of fringing reefs along the shoreline of the Kihei area was one factor which permitted the construction of three, and possibly four, fishponds along the shoreline of the Kula District (Kula Kai). Kalepolepo is the smallest and northernmost of three documented ponds that were present in Kula Kai. Immediately south of Kalepolepo (Ka'ono'ulu Kai), is Waiohuli Kai Pond (SIHP Site 50-50-09-1704). To the south of Waiohuli Kai is Keokea Kai (50-50-09-1738). A fourth possible unnamed pond is located to the south of Keokea Kai (Kolb 1995). The presence of these fishponds would have significantly increased the economic potential of the coastal Kula area, which received relatively little rainfall (average of 12 inches annually; Stearns and Macdonald 1942:37). In general, the Kihei area was not particularly well suited for intensive traditional agricultural. It was, however, well suited for aquaculture, and with proper maintenance, the fishponds would have provided quantities of fish species such as *'ama'ama* (mullet), and *awa* (milkfish) (Kikuchi 1973:113).

One of the characteristics of the Hawaiian fishponds of the *loko kuapa* type is that they contain a mixture of fresh and salt water (Kikuchi 1973: 44). It is therefore likely that a fresh water source was present at Kalepolepo, in the form of a stream, underground springs, or fresh water outlets offshore.

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**Kalepolepo Fishpond**

**Description (continued)**

Kalepolepo Pond is located 450 feet south from the present channel of Kulanihako'i Stream, which flows seasonally within a relatively broad, shallow gulch. Wetlands were once present in the lower reaches of the gulch, and near the mouth of the stream in the low flat behind the coastal sand dunes. These wetland features are clearly visible in the 1970 aerial photograph of the pond area (attached). It is not known whether this stream and wetland area was ever connected with Kalepolepo Pond.

Period of Construction/Use - The date of the original construction of Kalepolepo Pond is not known. Historic translations and transcriptions of traditional *mo'olelo* (oral history) for the area provide a general framework for a relatively continued use beginning in the middle to late 1500's and continuing through the late nineteenth century. Available radiocarbon dates from archaeological sites in the Kihei area tend to support a date of around AD 1400-1500 for the intensification of settlement in the area (Cordy 1977; Fredericksen et al. 1993; Fredericksen et al. 1995). The archaeological data are discussed following a summary of the historic and archival data.

The only known reference to a fishpond actually being built along the coast in south Maui is found in Fornander's collection of Hawaiian *mo'olelo* (Fornander 1969:70-71). This story credits the fishpond at Keone'o'io to the Hawai'i Island Chief Kauholanuimahu.

Kauholanuimahu is believed to have reigned during the late 1400's to early 1500's (Kamakau 1992: 324). A number of major construction projects, such as the Alanui trail, major expansions at Pihana and Pi'ilanihale *Heiau*, and construction or repair of large fishponds such as Kanaha are documented for Maui during the middle 1500's when Pi'ilani was the *Mo'i* (High Chief) of a unified Maui kingdom. No reference has been found in the oral history sources that associates the ponds at Kula Kai with Pi'ilani. It is, however, possible that they were constructed during his reign.

Hawaiian *mo'olelo* reported locally by Wilcox (1921) contains the earliest reference to repair work at Kalepolepo, which occurred during the time of 'Umi a Liloa, High Chief of Hawai'i Island. Shortly after the victory of Kihapi'ilani over his brother and his ascendancy as *Ali'i Nui* (High Chief) of Maui (c. late 1500's). According to the local tradition, 'Umi was designated District Chief of Kula, in return for his military assistance to Kihapi'ilani. 'Umi ordered the repair of the three fishponds at Kula Kai, as well as the pond at Kealia.

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**Kalepolepo Fishpond**

**Description (continued)**

The name "Kalepolepo" is said to have originated during this period of repair work, when large numbers of people were stationed in long lines to pass the stones from the hillsides to the ocean. The activities caused great clouds of dust to rise up and hang in the air, lending the name "the dirt" to the place (Pukui, Elbert & Mookini 1974:77). The name Kalepolepo was used to refer to the general coastal area where all three ponds were located. Prior to this time, the area was referred to as Ko'ie'ie (Fornander 1974: 5:235-236).

According to Maui historian Inez Ashdown, as interviewed by Johnson (1965), repair work was conducted at the Kalepolepo ponds by Kekaulike, the *mo'i* (island chief) of Maui during the early to middle 1700's. Kahekili II, also a *mo'i* of Maui, utilized the ponds as a source of mullet during the late 1700's. Repair work at the pond was initiated by Kamehameha I during the early 1800's (Kamakau 1976: 47).

The latest recorded repair project at Kalepolepo Pond was conducted in the 1840's, under the direction of Governor Ho'apili. Labor for this undertaking was obtained from the Maui penal colony, which had been recently moved from Kaho'olawe (Wilcox 1921:67). The pond was still producing mullet well into the nineteenth century, when Kalepolepo was an established settlement with two churches, numerous homes, and a trading center for whalers and upcountry farmers (Wilcox 1921:67). This settlement is further discussed in the following section.

To date, there has been no archaeological testing within the pond or immediate shoreline area. Test trenching was conducted a short distance inland, within the wetland area next to Kulanihako'i Stream. No cultural deposits or datable materials were recovered during this testing project (Spear 1992).

Excavations were recently conducted at two rock shelters (50-50-10-3139 and 3529) located c. .4 km inland of the coast in Waiohuli. These sites contain the nearest available dated deposits that have been reported to date. A radiocarbon date obtained from Site 50-50-10-3139 has a calendric range of AD 1560-1800 (Fredericksen et al. 1993). Dates obtained from two fire hearths at Site 50-50-10-3529 indicate a period of use between AD 1400 and 1700 (Fredericksen et al. 1995). These ranges correlate with previously published dates for the Kihei/Makena area (Cordy 1977:8-10), and are consistent with the available oral history information pertaining to an intensification of activities in the coastal area beginning in the late fifteenth to early sixteenth centuries.

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**Kalepolepo Fishpond**

**Description (continued)**

Associated Persons, Cultures, and Ethnic Groups - Like many other Hawaiian fishponds and *heiau*, the construction and first use of Kalepolepo Pond is associated in oral tradition with the *menehune*, a mythical race of people who were the first occupants of the Hawaiian Islands (Beckwith 1970:321-336). Wilcox's story of the sixteenth century pond repairs indicates that the *menehune* had considerable power over Kalepolepo Pond at that time. The *konohiki* in charge of the work had disregarded a warning by Kikau, a *kilokilo* (divining) priest who was skilled in communicating with the *menehune*. Kikau insisted that the *menehune* should be consulted regarding the repair work on the ponds. The *konohiki* refused to listen to the priest and threatened to have him thrown in an *imu* (earth oven) as soon as the work was completed. The night after the last of the three ponds was restored, a great storm arose and the ponds were destroyed. Again, the *konohiki* put the people to work on the ponds, only to have them destroyed a second time. In desperation, the *konohiki* admitted his error and asked the priest to summon the *menehune*. The walls were then properly restored by the *menehune*. Kikau the priest was spared from the *imu*, and was sent instead to Waipio Valley, to attend to the matters of 'Umi (Wilcox 1921:67).

According to Kamakau, the Mo'ō deity (water spirit), Mokuhinia, showed herself at Kalepolepo at the time that a son of Kamehameha died (Kamakau 1964:83). Mokuhinia also resided in the fishpond which bares her name at Moku'ula, Lahaina.

Kekuiawa was the child of Kamehameha I by Kaheiheimalie. He was taken to Maui in 1812 to help govern the island (Ii 1959: 106), and died three years later at Kalepolepo. His death here might suggest that he resided at Kalepolepo.

A prominent figure who had local control at Kalepolepo was Hapakuka Hewahewa, who lived at Kalepolepo between 1837 and 1848. He died at Kalepolepo in 1848. Hewahewa's family was from Makukona, Kohala, and was allied with Kamehameha during his struggle for power on the Big Island. Hewahewa's parents received lands in Kona and Kohala from Kamehameha after the decisive battle of Mokuohai. At the time of the *Mahele*, Hewahewa relinquished his control of six *ahupua'a*, including four on Hawai'i Island, two on O'ahu. He received an *'ili* in Kalihi, and the *ahupua'a* of Ka'ono'ulu. In his Native Register claim (48.6, Dec. 30, 1847), Hewahewa states that Kalepolepo was his permanent place of residence.



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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5**Kalepolepo Fishpond****Description (continued)**

The actual titles to the lands conveyed to H. Hewahewa were awarded by the Land Commission between 1850 and 1855, and were completed by his wife and other heirs. Kalepolepo was transferred to H. Hewahewa as Land Commission Award 3108; the 5,715 acre ahupua'a was granted to H. Hewahewa as Land Commission Award 3237 (Indices of Awards 1929).

Hewahewa awarded eleven separate land claims and fishing rights to claimants in Kalepolepo. These awards were clustered along the shoreline of the Kalepolepo Fishpond, and around the Kilolani Church (Kolb 1995; see attached map). Ten of the claims were for houselots.

An important historic figure associated with Kalepolepo is David Malo, who arrived at Kalepolepo in 1843 from Lahainaluna to establish a christian Congregationalist Church. According to Faris (1939), David Malo expended considerable energy in improving the local community, including the landscaping (Faris 1939). During this time, the pond was still being maintained and was a source of good quality mullet (Wilcox 1921:66). Malo was either living at Kalepolepo, or frequently visiting from Keokea during a ten year period (1843-1853). He died in 1853 and his body was returned to Lahainaluna for burial.

While Malo was stationed at Kalepolepo, a school was also established near the church. A second church was built by the Church of the Latter Day Saints, and a whaling station was set up by two Americans, Fern and Fredenbury (Wilcox 1921:66). A trading post was also established immediately inland of Kalepolepo Pond by an American *haole*, Captain John Halstead. Halstead arrived in Lahaina from New York in 1838 and married the chiefess Kauwikikilani Davis, great granddaughter of Isaac Davis. He worked in Lahaina as a carpenter for Kamehameha III until c. 1850, when he obtained a lease for a houselot at Kalepolepo. Halstead built a large Pennsylvania Dutch style house entirely of *koa* next to the south wall of the pond, and opened a trading station on the lower floor. Whalers came ashore to buy fresh produce that was brought in by the farmers via the Kalepolepo Road. Kula produce was also shipped out by Halstead to California during the gold rush era. During this period, Hobron's interisland schooner, *Maria*, made regular stops (c. every 10 days) at Kalepolepo, on its route between Honolulu, Lahaina, Makee's Landing (Makena), and Kawaihae (Thomas 1983:42). Halstead operated the trade station until 1860, when the whaling and gold rush trade began to diminish. He moved upcountry to Ulupalakua in 1876 and died there in 1887 (Wilcox 1921:66).

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## Kalepolepo Fishpond

## Description (continued)

Kalepolepo was visited by Kamehamehas III, IV and V between 1850 and 1870. Halstead's house served as the social center during these visits. The *koa* house remained standing until it was burned down in 1946 by the Kihei Yacht Club (Kolb 1995:68).

There are few available records of activities around Kalepolepo Pond between c. 1880 and the early twentieth century. Available evidence indicates that it was possibly not functional during this time. During the late 1930's, the Waiohuli Kai fishpond was considered as a potential harbor area by the *Hui Moku o Kalepolepo* (Faris 1939). The necessary dredging of the pond in order to deepen it for a harbor area was apparently never completed. During World War II, a degassing plant was built along the northern shoreline of Kalepolepo Pond. This building was later converted to offices for the Bureau of Standards. More recently, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) established an Ionosphere Station at this location.

The Federal Government still retains a small parcel fronting the pond (TMK 3-9-01:87). Sections of federal land to the north and south of Parcel 87 have been deeded to the County of Maui. The beach area at the northern end of the pond wall is now owned by the County of Maui (Parcel 147), along with a small parcel fronting the central portion of the pond. Menehune Shores Condominium occupies the southern shoreline area (Parcel 85). All of the Land Commission Award parcels in this area have been incorporated into one of the three parcels that are now present along the shore. The County Park is the principal access area to the pond, although people may easily walk in along the shoreline from either side. The site is a popular fishing area, particularly for net throwing and catching small fry bait fish. The shallow, calm waters of the pond are used for swimming.

Physical Characteristics - As used in the context of this discussion, fishponds are aquacultural structures that were designed and built by Hawaiians for purposes of raising fish and other aquatic resources. The six formal fishpond types identified in Kikuchi's (1973) synthetic study have been applied in subsequent works, providing a standardized typology for all the islands (DHM, Inc. et al.1990a).

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**Kalepolepo Fishpond**

**Description (continued)**

Following Kikuchi's typology, Kalepolepo Pond is a Type I, or *loko kuapa* type pond, which is defined as "A fishpond of littoral water whose side or sides facing the sea consist of a stone or coral wall usually containing one or more sluice grates" (Kikuchi 1973:227). Ten of the 44 fishponds identified for Maui are *loko kuapa* ponds (DHM, Inc. et al. 1990a:III-5).\*

The wall of Kalepolepo Pond is situated along the edge of a coral reef, and was constructed offshore from a sand beach area. The wall is constructed of rounded basalt boulders and cobbles which average 0.3 to 0.6 m in diameter, with coral and basalt cobble and pebble fill. The major segment of the wall is relatively linear, oriented at approximately 170 degrees Az, parallel to the shoreline (see plan map). The north and south sides of the wall curve gently toward the shoreline. A more defined corner is present in the wall at the northern end. At the southern end of the straight segment is an opening which probably correlates with a former sluice grate, or *makaha*).

The original eastern extent of the north and south ends of the wall is not known. Presently, the northern end is quite abrupt and is disconnected with the current shoreline. The southern end of the wall extends further east than the northern end. It is not known whether this difference was an aspect of the original pond design. Given the historic records of pond siltation, it would not be unfeasible to suggest that both sides of the wall extended c. 200 m at one time. No subsurface exploration has occurred in the areas of the wall to date, so it is not known whether buried portions of the wall are present.

The existing wall has a total length of 334 m, including the 22 m wide opening. The southern portion is 110 m from its identifiable end to the opening. DHM Inc has estimated that this side was originally over 180 m long (1990b:188). The western side is 136 m long from the opening to the corner, and the northern portion is 66 m long from the corner to the identifiable end near the shoreline. The pond is 230 m wide, as measured along the shoreline. A considerable amount of loose and displaced stones are present in the area of the opening and along the inside of the northern wall. Examination of the opening area suggests that it was originally less than 10 m wide, probably around 6.0 m.

\* The DHM, Inc. survey counted 11 *loko kuapa* for Maui Island, however, this number included Kealia Pond, which is a Type II pond that was misidentified as a Type I pond (1990:III-21).

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### Kalepolepo Fishpond

#### Description (continued)

Wave action has caused erosion of the wall in this area. The reef shelf is slightly higher here, as compared with other sections of the west wall. There is a large amount of loose stone rubble along the inside of the pond wall, at the north side of the opening. This patterning of rubble may have been caused by wave action, or may reflect a former platform or widened wall area where a small guard house or netter's area was located (Apple and Kikuchi 1975:23,24).

Width measurements along the top of the wall range from 2.0 m at the northern end to 9.2 m near the center of the west side. The wider reading is probably most reflective of the original width of the upper portion of the wall. The base of the wall is generally buried under wall fall, and accurate height and width readings are difficult to obtain.

The most representative wall height readings are 1.0 m along the inside (center, west side) and 1.53 m outside (center, north wall). It should be noted that these readings reflect the existing wall, which was undoubtedly higher during the periods of productive pond use. At minus tide and low tide, most of the wall is visible, and extends approximately 0.3 to 0.5 m above the water surface. At high tide, much of the north and south walls, and the area around the opening become submerged. Waves wash over most of the western section at high tide. The top of the wall is presently 8.3 to 5.7 feet below land surface elevation at the shoreline (behind the boulder revetment at the Hawai'i Whale Sanctuary).

The best-preserved section of the wall is along the center and south end of the western side. In this area, the interior of the wall can be discerned as sloping outward from top to base. A horizontal distance of 1.5 to 2.0 m occurs between the top and base, indicating that the base was three to four meters wider than the top of the wall.

An alignment of large boulders, which appears to serve as a protective breakwater, is located off the northwestern corner of the pond wall (see plan map). It is not known whether this feature was part of the original pond; the boulders are larger than most of the visible pond wall stones. The alignment is set at the edge of a reef shelf, approximately 10 m from the outside of the pond wall. The area between the breakwater and the pond wall is filled with stones, and it is not possible to determine whether these are disturbed or purposely set stones.

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**Kalepolepo Fishpond**

**Description (continued)**

The western side of the wall is an average distance of 68.5 m from the present shoreline (at low tide). This distance is believed to be less than the original east-west axes of the pond. Present overall area of the pond has been calculated at three acres (DHM Inc. et al. 1990b:118).

The interior area of the pond is presently 1.0 to 1.5 m deep at low tide (see plan map). The pond floor is sand with some silt; there are very few stones scattered in the main area of the pond. It is possible that some stones are presently buried beneath the silty sand. The actual depth of the sand and any possible sediment deposits within the pond is presently unknown.

DHM Inc. et al. conducted an in-depth study of Kalepolepo Pond, and found that siltation here was moderate, and there was no encroachment of the pond system by vegetation (DHM Inc. et al 1990b:118). The Office of State Planning has designated the pond water as Class A, which designates it to be protected from "...any discharge which has not received the best degree of treatment or control compatible with the criteria specified for this class" (DHM Inc, 1990a:IV-5).

Historic Impacts and Likely Appearance During Use - Historic maps and descriptive narratives of Kalepolepo Pond indicate that it was once larger than its present size of three acres. The pond apparently began to fill with silt during the late nineteenth century, when rapid deforestation was occurring upcountry (Wilcox 1921:67). A period of increased rainfall and flooding occurred during the late 1870's, causing a rapid encroachment of the shoreline into the pond. The pond walls, which were still intact at that time, served as a catchment for the silt and sand. By 1880, the pond was mostly filled, as documented by Monsarrat (map of 1880 cited in Neller 1982). In 1954, after the conclusion of the World War II activities along the shoreline, the pond was still mostly filled, and was identified as part of the sandy shoreline on the USGS map of that year (attached). As the height of the wall began to diminish, waves were able to wash into the pond and the alluvial deposits began to recede. By 1970, prior to the construction of Menehune Shores, the shoreline had moved back to within 10-20 m of its present low tide position (see attached plan map and aerial photograph). The shoreline is presently defined by a concrete seawall and boulder revetment, both of which stop the water at normal tide.

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## Kalepolepo Fishpond

## Description (continued)

Today, the northern section of the wall is considerably shorter than the southern section. Based on the appearance of the northern end of the wall, it is believed that it was impacted, and a portion along the shore was removed. This may have occurred during World War II, when military activities were relatively intensive along the shoreline at several localities in the Kihei area. It is possible that remnants of the north wall are buried under the beach. The east end of the south wall has been impacted by construction and landscaping at Menehune Shores. The wall fill in this area is mixed with broken chunks of structural concrete and imported stones. It is possible that part of the wall was removed, or is buried in this area as well.

During use of the pond for aquaculture, the present opening most likely contained a sluice grate, or *makaha*, which was a stationary wooden grate with openings to allow small fish and fresh sea water to pass into the pond, yet would not permit the mature fish to leave (Kikuchi 1973:59-63). It is not known whether the *makaha* was modified during the various restoration/repair projects that were undertaken at the pond. According to Apple and Kikuchi (1975:20), the stationary grates were sometimes replaced by movable gates or movable double grates after contact. The wall is of sufficient width to permit the use of double grates. In this arrangement, the fish are trapped between the two grates for easy harvesting.

It is likely that the pond was deeper during its period of use for raising mullet. If the pond waters are too shallow, the temperature remains too high, limiting the oxygen supply (Kikuchi 1973:82-87). Other important biological characteristics of the pond water include pH, turbidity, salinity, and bottom sediments (Kikuchi 1973:85-88; Apple and Kikuchi 1975:28-31)

As indicated in the description of the pond setting, fishponds require a steady in-flow of fresh water in order to maintain an adequate supply of nutrients, optimum salinity levels, and circulation (DHM Inc. et al. 1990a:A-7). During its productive use, there would have been some source of fresh water at Kalepolepo. This source is presently not known. Possible sources include the freshwater wetlands that were once present at the mouth of Kulanihako'i Stream, or submerged freshwater outlets along the shoreline. Given the extent of modern development in the coastal area behind the pond, it is not likely that the fresh water source for the pond is still active. The wetlands have been filled and the stream has been channeled directly into the ocean. At least a portion of the of Menehune Shores property has also been filled. The seawall fronting this property is c. 10 feet high along the pond side and c. 4 feet high along the inland side.

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**Kalepolepo Fishpond**

**Description (continued)**

Today, the Kalepolepo area is now part of the greater Kihei community. Most of the original area of Kalepolepo is now used for residential purposes, as beach park, and as the base for the NOAA Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale Sanctuary. Halstead's *koa* house and many of the former houselots are within the area of the Menehune Shores condominium. The remaining physical elements of Kalepolepo include the Kula Kai ponds, and the walls of David Malo's Congregational Church, located at the Trinity Church by the Sea.

Previous Investigations - Kalepolepo Pond was included in Kikuchi's inventory of Hawaiian fishponds that was conducted as part of his PhD. dissertation research (Kikuchi 1973). The pond was designated as site F6 (F designated Maui Island). Waiohuli Kai was designated site F28, and Keokea Kai was designated site F14. Kikuchi's survey consisted of identifying the pond type and estimating the acreage of the pond. Kikuchi's study was synthetic and covered the entire archipelago; site-specific details were therefore not presented in his fishpond inventory.

The first record of field investigations occurring at Kalepolepo Pond is the Hawaii Register of Historic Places Archaeological Registration Form, which was completed in 1973 (Connolly 1973). At that time, the State HRHP number of 50-50-09-1288 and the B.P. Bishop Museum number 50-Ma-C3-1 was assigned to the site. As part of the recordation, a sketch map of the pond wall was drawn, and a significance assessment was made. The site was recommended for placement on the Hawaii Register of Historic Places. The following summary statement was given:

This fishpond is not only a good representative of its type, but it is one of the few remaining fishponds on Maui. This fact adds to its interpretive potential and increases the need for protection of the site. We recommend Valuable status, State Register (Connolly 1973).

The site was placed on the Hawaii Register July 15, 1974. It was removed from the register in 1980, due to technicalities involving owner notification.

Waiohuli Kai and Keokea Kai Ponds were not recorded by Connolly at that time. These two ponds were identified on aerial photographs during Cordy's (1977) archaeological reconnaissance of the Kihei area, and were assigned State Inventory of Historic Places (SIHP) site numbers at that time. Cordy did not conduct site-specific recording of the Kula Kai fishponds at that time.

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**Kalepolepo Fishpond**

**Description (continued)**

In 1981, Charles Keau of the Maui County Department of Parks and Recreation conducted an archaeological Reconnaissance of the area that is now the Maui County Kalepolepo Park, and the open beach area to the north of the federal building. At that time, the property was surplus Federal land, and was covered with thick vegetation. Keau identified two sections of picket fencing and a cement block in the area of the park, and a stone platform in the northern parcel (Keau 1981). He recommended that an inventory survey with testing be conducted prior to ground disturbance.

Keau and Neller returned to the area in 1982, while the seawall along Menehune Shores was being constructed. No new information regarding the possible historic features was found at that time. Neller recommended that all construction activities in the area should be monitored by an archaeologist, due to the information from historic documents indicating that sites were present in the area (Neller 1982). No specific information was recorded for the fishpond at that time.

In 1990, the Office of State Planning commissioned a state-wide survey and assessment of Hawaiian fishponds. This work was authorized and funded under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act, and included a summary of permit and review requirements for fishpond use (DHM Inc. et al. 1990a).

Kalepolepo Pond was included among 74 ponds selected across the state for in-depth study (DHM Inc. 1990b). Fieldwork conducted at the site in 1990 consisted of taking photographs, gathering data on the size and construction of the wall, assessing water quality and conditions, and the integrity of the pond; and assessing site significance under the National Register criteria. Kalepolepo was only Maui fishpond, and one of only seven ponds statewide that was found to be significant under all four of the National Register Criteria (DHM Inc. et al. 1990aIV-9 thru -11).



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**Kalepolepo Fishpond****Statement of Significance**

Summary - Kalepolepo Fishpond was an economic resource that was important for its subsistence value to the people of the Kula District of Maui between approximately AD 1500 and 1880. It is a well-preserved example of the technological achievements associated with the development of Hawaiian aquaculture. During its period of use, the pond was an important political resource for the *ali'i* of Maui, and for the Hawaiian Monarchy, within the context of the traditional Hawaiian social system. The history of the repairs and uses of the pond reflect the social history of political power and leadership on the level of the district, island, and archipelago. Kalepolepo Pond was also a resource and place of cultural significance for all strata of Hawaiian society, including the chiefs, priests and commoners. For this reason, it is an important element of the cultural heritage of the Hawaiian people, and it meets National Register Criterion A in the areas of Social History, Maritime History, Hawaiian Heritage, and Industry (aquaculture).

For the greater part of the c. 400 year period that the pond was in active use, there was a settlement present at the shore of Kalepolepo Pond which included a cluster of homes, ceremonial places (two *heiau*, later two churches), and most likely a high ranking individual's residence. The location of the settlement was directly tied to the ponds of Kula Kai, which were the focal elements of the overall community structure and its landscape. Economically, the traditional Hawaiian settlement at Kalepolepo was primarily focused on fishing and maintaining the ponds. Ceremonial activities were also an important aspect of the community.

Historically, Kalepolepo Pond is one of the best-documented fishponds for Maui, and has a high potential for providing new information regarding the maritime history and social history of the Hawaiian people. It meets National Register Criterion D in these areas, as well as in the area of Archaeology. Due to the period of use for Kalepolepo Pond, it potentially contains important information relating to prehistoric Hawaiian culture and historic period Hawaiian culture. Associated sites adjacent to the pond may also contain important archaeological information regarding the material culture of historic period foreigners, such as John Halstead and other American traders that settled here. The western trading interests at Kalepolepo between c. 1850 and 1860 were focused on the whaling and maritime trading industries, and co-existed with the continued traditional activities that focused on fishing and maintaining the ponds.

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### Kalepolepo Fishpond

#### Statement of Significance (continued)

Kalepolepo retains considerable structural integrity, and it is one of the best-preserved fishponds for the Island of Maui (Connolly 1973). It meets National Register Criterion C as both an excellent example and as a unique example of the architectural achievements attained by the Hawaiian fishpond builders. Areas relevant to this Criterion include Maritime History, Hawaiian Heritage, and Industry (aquaculture).

The history of Kalepolepo is also the history of the comings and goings of *ali'i nui* to the Kula Kai area. The pond has been remembered primarily for its many repairs, conducted always under the command of a high chief: 'Umi a Liloa, Kekaulike, Kamehameha I, and Ho'apili. The pond was utilized by Kekuaiwa Kamehameha, Kahekili II, and visited by the Kamehamehas III, IV and V after the establishment of the Hawaiian monarchy.

An important historic figure who saw first-hand the contrasts between tradition and westernization is associated with Kalepolepo. David Malo, who was among the first generation of Christian ministers, lived at Kalepolepo as overseer of the pond and as the religious guardian of the place and its people. The site meets National Register Criterion B, in that it was directly associated with David Malo (c. 1793-1853).

Historic Contexts - Kalepolepo Fishpond is a significant when considered in a number of historic contexts. The most prominent of these contexts are: Hawaiian aquaculture, the history of Hawaiian social organization, the period of culture contact in Hawai'i, and the local history of the Kula Kai area.

Kalepolepo Fishpond contains a considerable amount of information that is important for understanding the history and technology of Hawaiian aquaculture. Much of this information has not yet been retrieved. There is more information available regarding the construction techniques and materials used in building the wall, and in the dynamics of the pond ecosystem. There is a high potential for subsurface deposits in the shoreline areas that have not been impacted by construction, such as the County of Maui Park parcels.

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**Kalepolepo Fishpond**

**Statement of Significance (continued)**

Information is potentially present that could help to clarify the date of original construction, changes in the pond wall through the many repair projects that have occurred, changes in the shoreline behind the pond which directly affected the size of the pond and impacted its productivity, and the original footprint of the wall at its easternmost extent. In addition to the collection of additional archaeological data, the information value of the pond will allow for in-depth comparisons of this site with other fishponds of the *loko kuapa* type. Recent studies in fishpond dynamics have also demonstrated the economic benefits of understanding traditional fishpond technology and its application to modern aquaculture management (Wyban 1992).

An important historical context for the understanding the social setting and significance of the Kalepolepo fishpond is the history of social organization in Hawai'i. The economic, political and religious importance of aquaculture to the Hawaiian culture is well-represented in the history and setting of Kalepolepo Pond. During its period of use, it was under the control of powerful chiefs, and was selected for the residency of the most powerful *kahuna* recognized by Kamehameha I, Hewahewa.

Between the time of 'Umi and Kamehameha I, restoration work on Kalepolepo Pond was conducted under the direction of three prominent chiefs who were overlords of either all Maui lands or all Hawai'i Island lands ('Umi, Kekaulike, and Kamehameha). This pattern indicates that the pond was royal, in that its produce was the property of the high chief, to disperse or limit as he/she saw fit. Major repair work on the Kula Kai Ponds would have required the assemblage of a considerable number of workers. The combined acreage of the three ponds, as estimated by Kikuchi (1973:256,258) was c. 48 acres. Such work requirements would have been feasible only for those with sufficient political power to do so. In Kamakau's description of Kamehameha's repair work, he noted that "All the men and women of East Maui worked at Haneoo and all the men and women of West Maui at Kalepolepo"(1869:1303).

The political importance of the Kalepolepo Fishponds is also indicated by the presence of two *heiau* immediately inland of the ponds. Walker visited the sites of these *heiau* in 1929, and indicated that both were destroyed. The *heiau* named Kalaihi was located at the northern end of the "large fishpond, still to be seen" (possibly Waiohuli Kai Pond). The Rice poultry yard was on the site at the time of Walker's visit (1930:269). The second *heiau*, named Kealalipoa, was found at the south end of the large pond, behind the extant Mormon Church, in a destroyed state (Walker 1930:269).

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## Kalepolepo Fishpond

### Statement of Significance (continued)

These two *heiau* were the only such ceremonial centers identified by Walker along the entire coastline between Ma'alaea and Makena. Their location near the three ponds reflects a political and religious importance of the locality, and its use as a gathering place for both *ali'i* and *maka'ainana*.

The age and period of use for the two *heiau* is not known, and there is no information regarding their function. The *heiau* were destroyed some time after 1819, when the traditional religion and *kapu* system was overthrown, and sometime before 1929, when they were observed in a destroyed state by Walker (1931). The sites were possibly already destroyed in 1917 when Thrum attempted to locate information regarding their whereabouts (Thrum 1917:59).

In addition to the presence of *heiau*, the religious importance of the site is reflected in the appearance of the sacred *Mo'o*, Mokuhinia, at Kalepolepo. The *mo'olelo* of Mokuhinia does not establish a direct association of the deity with a specific pond at Kalepolepo, however, it is likely that she was associated with one, or possibly all of the three Kula Kai ponds.

Kalepolepo was situated at the coastal terminus of a major *mauka-makai* transportation route (the Kalepolepo Road) which passed through three *ahupua'a* between the fishponds and the upper Kula settlement in Keokea. It was also located along the route of Pi'ilani's Alanui, which circled the Island. The presence of this trail meant that fresh fish from the Kula Kai ponds could be taken directly to Wailuku, or wherever the high chief was located at the time. Kalepolepo was along the route of the annual Makahiki procession.

Under traditional land tenure, Hewahewa would have been the chief of the *ahupua'a* of Ka'ono'ulu and of Kalepolepo. He therefore would have been one of the principal benefactors and overseers of Kalepolepo Pond, and may have controlled the distribution of its produce. The fact that Ho'apili, rather than Hewahewa, was the overseer of the pond repairs in the 1840's indicates that it was considered royal property, and was not the total responsibility of the local *ahupua'a* chief.

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### Kalepolepo Fishpond

#### Statement of Significance (continued)

The history of Kalepolepo and its ponds includes the period of western contact and the introduction of Christianity to Maui (AD 1798-1850). This is an important historic context, in that it was a time of rapid social and economic change and rapid depopulation of the Native Hawaiians. Kalepolepo is associated with a well-known religious leader who were influential during this period.

Historic accounts of Malo indicated that he was more than simply a minister to the Kilolani Church. He was involved in the workings of the community, and is credited with restoring the natural beauty to the shoreline area behind the ponds. It is likely that he also directed and/or participated in taking care of the ponds. Malo was an industrious individual who quickly learned western technology and put it to practical applications. He planted cotton and had it spun and woven, and used to make his own clothing. He planted sugar cane and manufactured an excellent quality of Molasses (Emerson in Malo 1980). Malo also had lands in Waikapu and Lahaina, where he had a breadfruit grove behind Alamihi Fishpond (Alexander 1884).

When he arrived at Kalepolepo, Malo began the task of constructing the Kilolani Church, a project that was not completed until 1852 (Frech 1988). The church was built from blocks of cut coral and was located c. .5 km inland from the fishpond. Prior to completion of the church, Malo conducted services closer to the pond, under the shade of the coconut palms. The service was called by blowing a large conch shell that belonged to Halstead (Wilcox 1921:67).

According to Wilcox (1921:67), the shoreline of Kalepolepo was planted by Malo with coconut, *kou*, taro and *ape*, a large taro-like plant that was believed to ward off evil spirits (Pukui and Elbert 1986:28). It is not certain whether Malo was at Kalepolepo during the pond repair work that was done by Ho'apili. It is certain that the pond waters were clear and productive during the decade that Malo lived at Kalepolepo (Wilcox 1921:67), and that it was a retreat destination for the monarchs during this period. Lot (Kamehameha V) apparently stayed for an extended period and ran up a debt with Halstead (Wilcox 1921:66).

Malo's knowledge of traditional Hawaiian history and customs was quite extensive, and while at Lahainaluna, he contributed significantly to the recordation of this history. His works have been incorporated in historical compendiums, and have been translated and published under his name (Malo 1980). His contributions, both while he was living and through his writing, are recognized throughout Hawai'i.

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**Kalepolepo Fishpond**

**Statement of Significance (continued)**

Kalepolepo Fishpond is prominent in the context of the local history for the Kula Kai/Kihei area. Together with the other ponds of Kula Kai, Kalepolepo was the focal reason for the development of a residential and ceremonial center prior to western contact. It was the existence of the established community that attracted the traders and missionaries to Kalepolepo. This settlement was the core of what has become a sprawling seaside community.

The importance to Kalepolepo Pond in the history of the Kihei area is that it is one of very few visible material remains of its early settlement, and of a lifestyle that was well adapted to the Kihei environment. The pond was located so as to take advantage of many natural features, including the coral reef, fresh water, the ocean currents, and the available ocean resources.

There are still many questions regarding the composition of the natural environment during the time that Kalepolepo Pond was in use. The changes in the extent and composition of the shoreline, the nature and source of fresh water, the extent of the wetlands inland of the pond, and changes in water quality are problems that are directly relevant to the managing of Kihei's natural resources. Kalepolepo Pond is an important reference point, where the past and the present can be brought together and compared.

Because of the condition of the pond wall and the amount of historic/archival information available for Kalepolepo Pond, this site has a very high potential for restoration, public education, and possibly productive use through traditional aquaculture. These uses would enhance the local and regional importance of the site.

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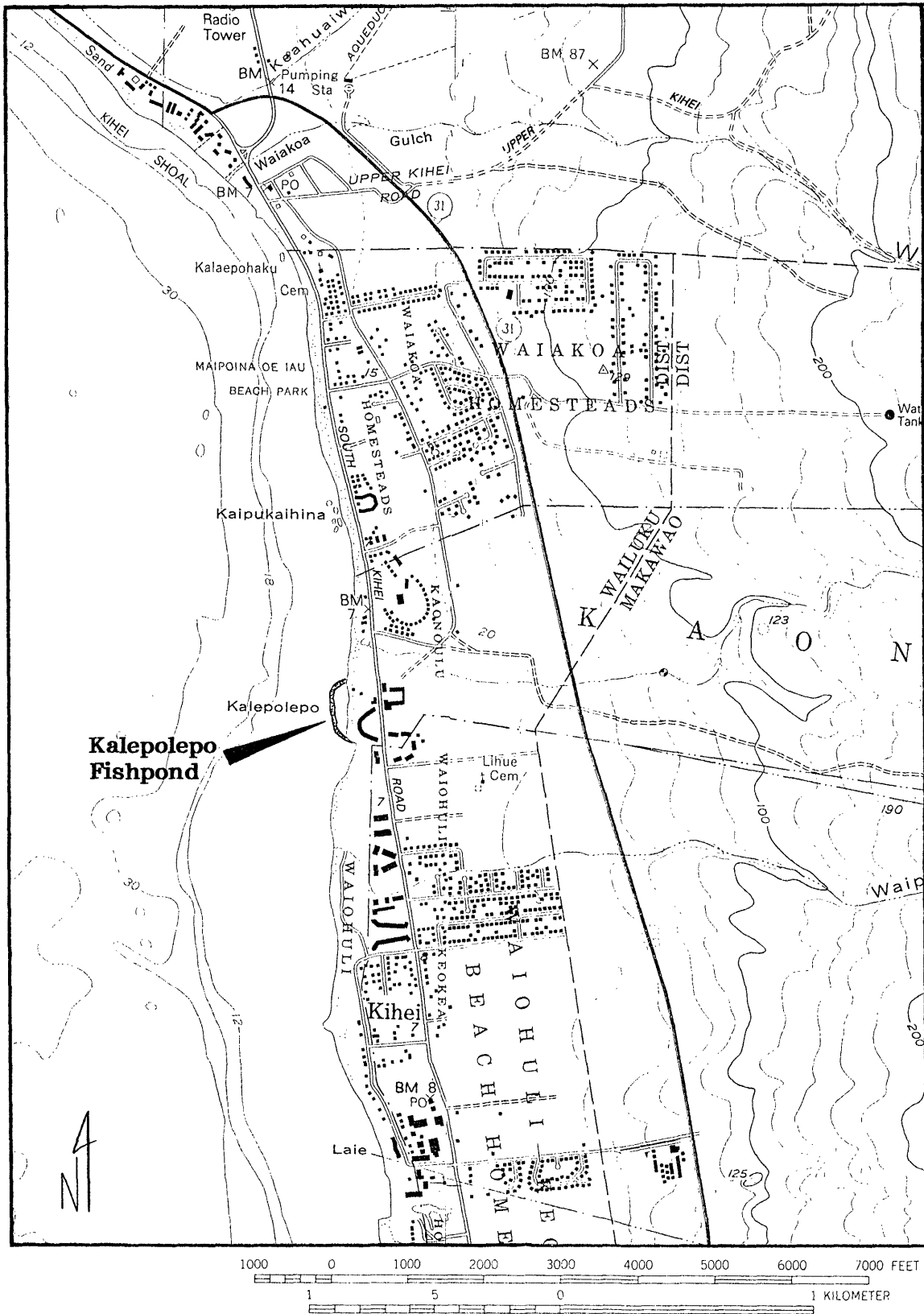
**Kalepolepo Fishpond**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

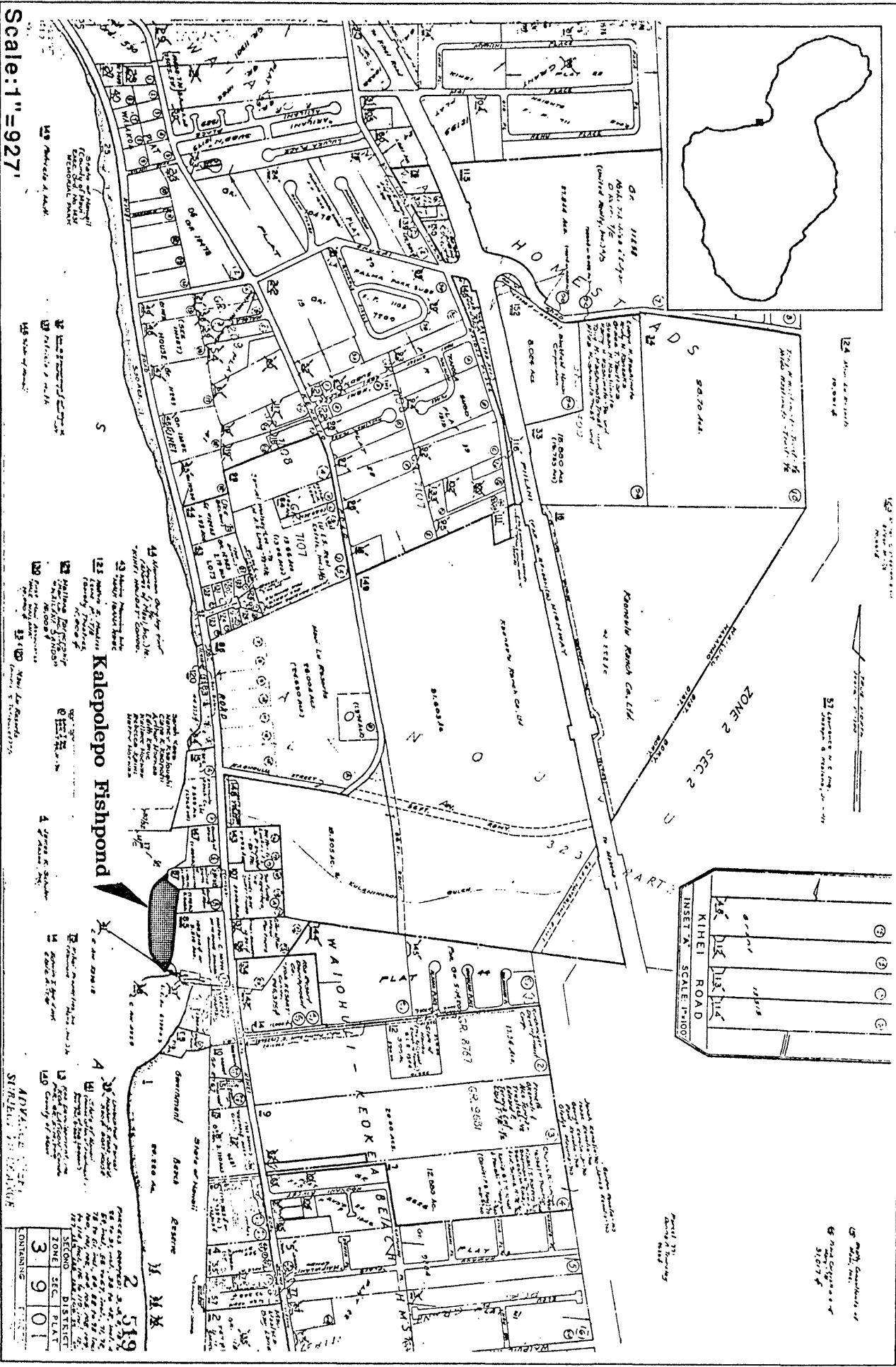
The boundary of Site 50-50-09-1288 follows along the outer perimeter of the pond wall and along the shoreline, as it exists in 1996. The site is bounded to the north, west and south by the sea, and on the east by Parcels 85, 87 and 147 of Tax Map Key (2) 3-9-001.

**Boundary Justification**

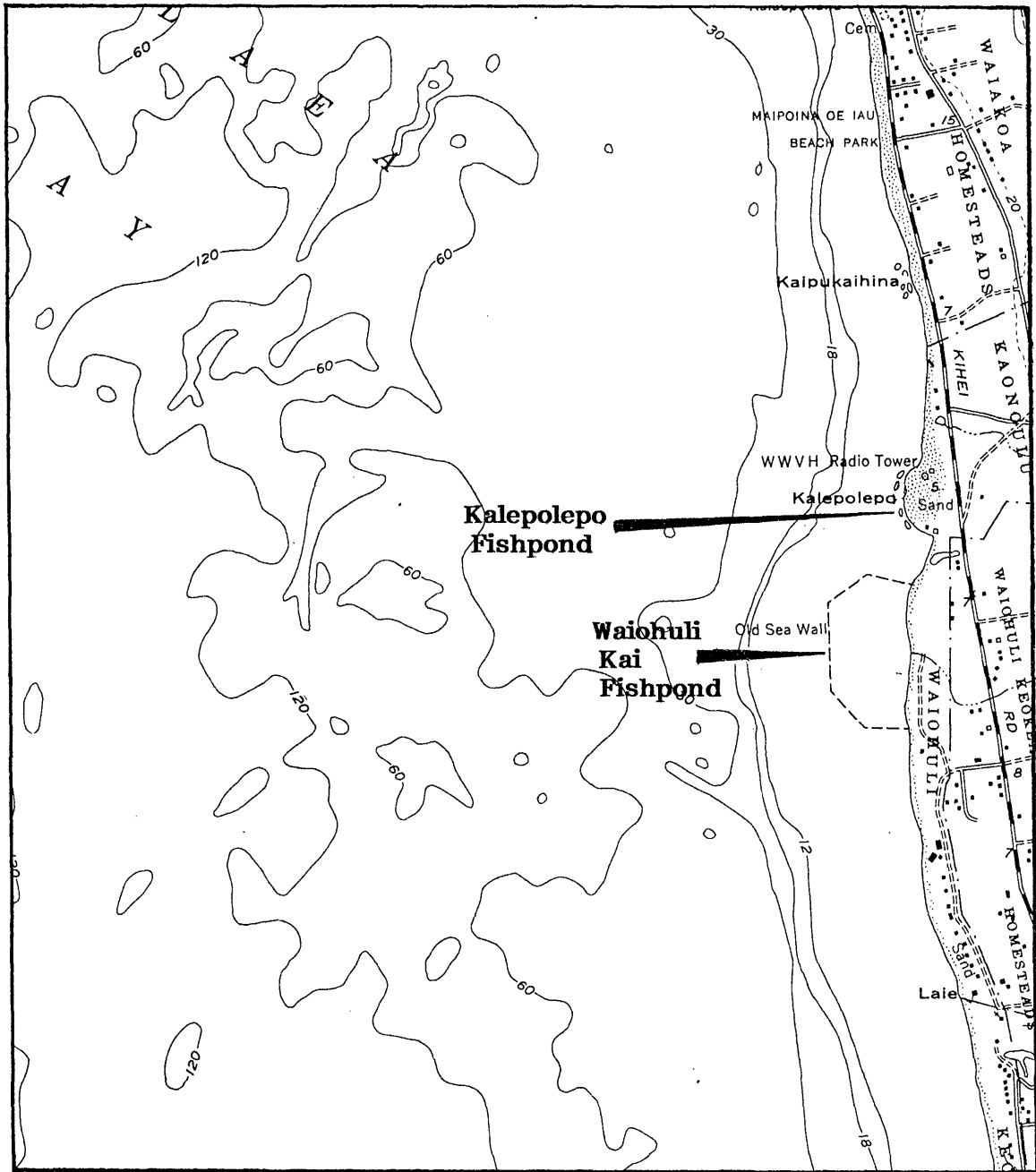
Only that portion of the wall that is visible is used in determining the boundary of the site at this time. Buried portions of the wall may extend inland from the present shoreline; however its presence has not been documented to date. There may also be archaeological deposits associated with the pond within the one or all of the adjacent properties; however, such deposits have not been documented to date. The site boundaries therefore follow the outermost perimeter of the fishpond wall and the shoreline.



Portions of the Ma'alaea and Pu'u o Kali 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Maps



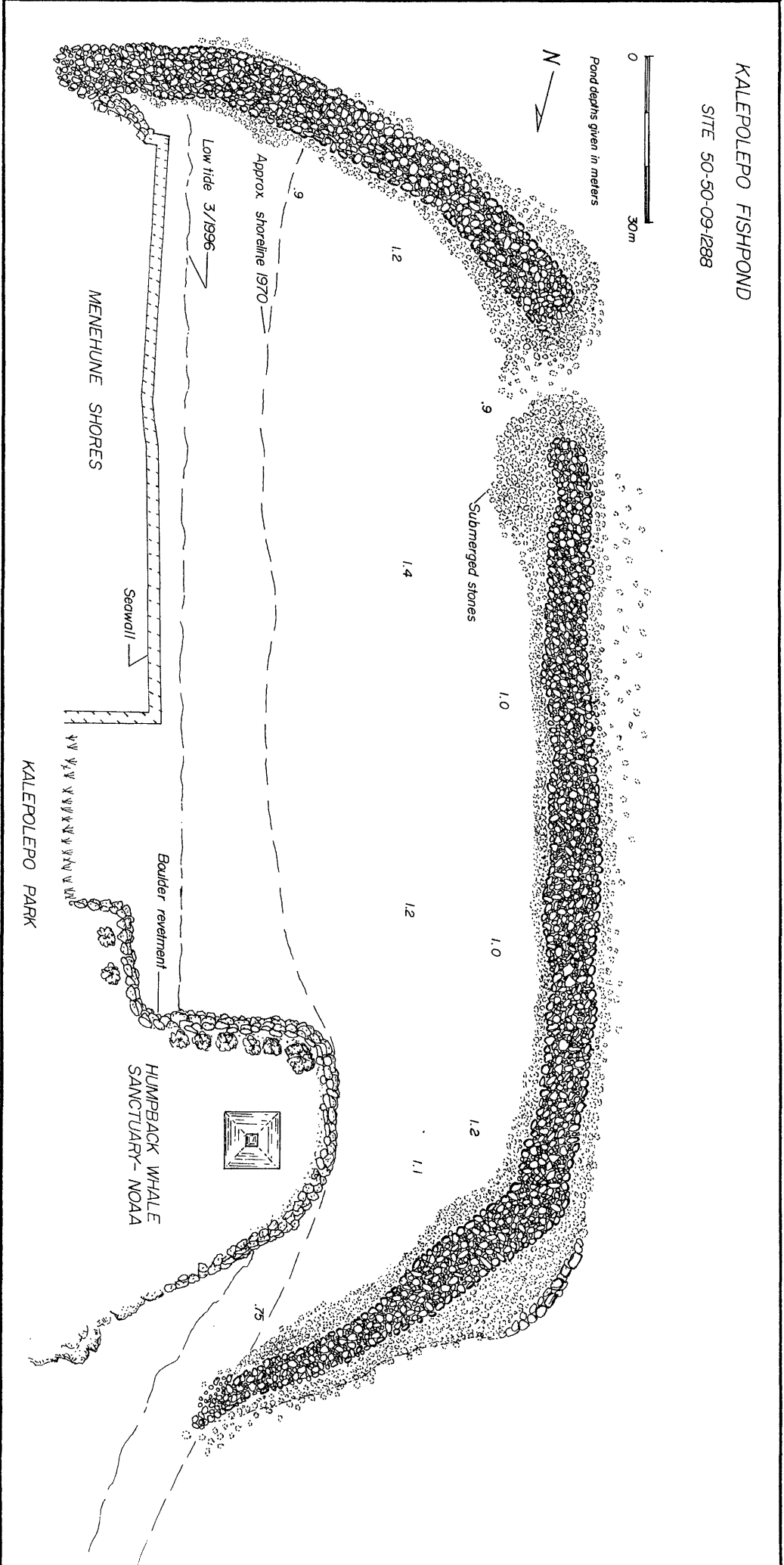
Tax Map Plat 3-9-001 Showing Location of Kalepolepo Fishpond



**Portion of Ma'alaea 7.5 Minute Quadrangle (1954) Showing Kalepolepo Fishpond Mostly Filled With Sand. Waiohuli Kai Pond also depicted.**

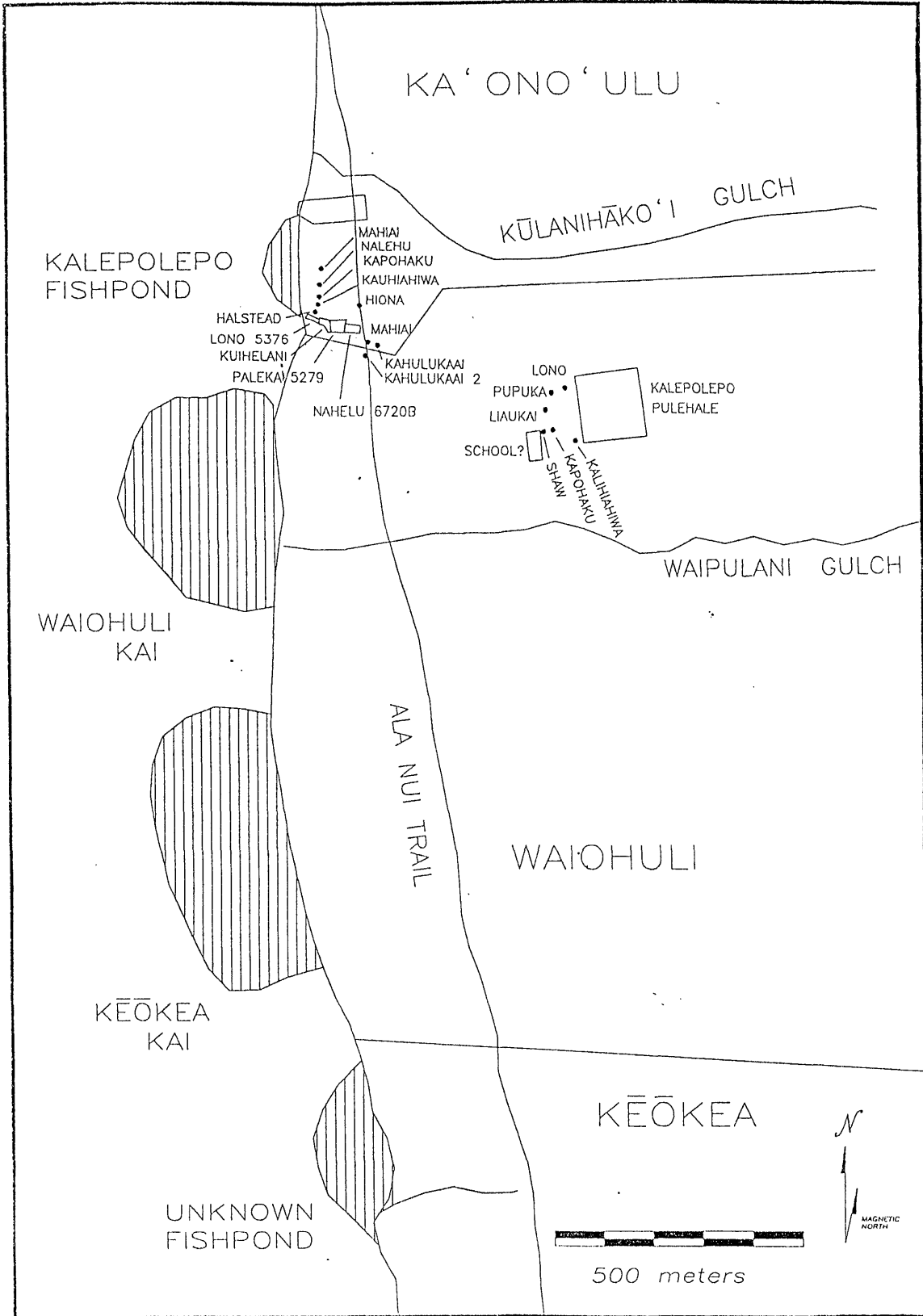
KALEPOLEPO FISHPOND

SITE 50-50-09-1288



Scaled Plan View Map of Kalepolepo Fishpond (SHPPD 1996)





**Kalepolepo in the Nineteenth Century (Kolb 1995:63)**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 96001503

Date Listed: 12/30/96

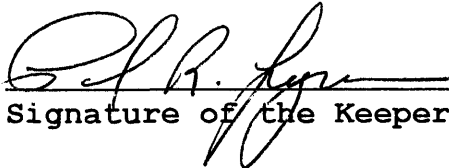
Kalepolepo Fishpond  
Property Name

Maui  
County

HI  
State

N/A  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

12/30/96  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

The proper area of significance under Criterion C should be Engineering. [i.e. excellent example of a unique form of traditional construction; NR Bulletin 16A p.39]

Under Criterion A, Agriculture (Traditional aquaculture) should be added in place of industry. [While industry is not an inappropriate choice, previous National Register nominations have used agriculture as an appropriate area of significance for traditional Hawaiian fishponds.]

These corrections were confirmed with the Hawaii state historic preservation office.

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DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)