

5-2-73

PH0055379

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Hawaii
COUNTY:	Honolulu
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1973



1. NAME

COMMON: **KUKANILOKO BIRTHSTONES**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *off the main road*
Near Wahiawa, on the Waialua side of

CITY OR TOWN: **Kaukonahua Gulch** *Wahiawa main*

STATE: **Hawaii** CODE: **15** COUNTY: **Honolulu** CODE: **03**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **George Galbraith Trust Estate; Hawaiian Trust Co., Trustee**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Honolulu** STATE: **Hawaii** CODE: **15**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Bureau of Conveyances, Department of Land and Natural Resources**

STREET AND NUMBER: **465 South King Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Honolulu** STATE: **Hawaii** CODE: **15**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Archaeology of Oahu**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1930** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Bishop Museum**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Kalihi Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Honolulu** STATE: **Hawaii** CODE: **15**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Hawaii**

COUNTY: **Honolulu**

ENTRY NUMBER: **APR 11 1973**

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Kukaniloko birthstones are located next to a dusty plantation road and are partially surrounded by pineapple fields. The turn-off from Kamehameha Highway just north of the town of Wahiawa is marked with a Hawaii Visitors Bureau sign pointing toward Kukaniloko. The birthstones themselves are as red as the soil of the surrounding pineapple fields, hence, are apparently of local origin. The stones appear to be naturally occurring here and are embedded in the ground to an unknown depth. It is unlikely that they join underground as a contiguous stone mass, but are actually boulders. Their size varies from .5 to 2 meters along the longest dimension, while their shapes range from round to rectangular to asymmetrical.

Almost every stone has at least one large depression in its surface; many of the stones have several. These depressions were most likely originally merely natural, but undoubtedly were enlarged and made more symmetrical by the Hawaiians. Today, they appear as very smooth, round, "sit-spots" in the rocks, with no signs of tools or human workmanship; only their uniform symmetry and design would indicate human craftsmanship. Each successful depression measures about .25 meter across and may be up to .1 meter deep, but these dimensions vary considerably. A channel runs from the low side of many of the holes that may well have been created by human hands, but no evidence of tool marks remains.

One can immediately visualize the use of these stone "sit-spots" in childbirth, for many of them have natural backrests behind the depressions, which would have given firm support to a straining mother-to-be. It is small wonder that these birthstones would have been revered and reserved for childbirth by chieftesses.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre 1778 |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Kukaniloko is one of only two famous places in the State for the birth of children of high ranking chieftesses, and the only such place located on Oahu. Tradition holds that it was first established in about the 12th century A.D. and used continuously well into historic times. Birth at places such as Kukaniloko were held by the Hawaiians to add a special divine gift to the high rank held already by the children of chiefs. Extensive legendary material still exists in written form about the nature and process of childbirth at Kukaniloko. So highly was birth at Kukaniloko prized that Kamehameha I, the great king of Hawaii, made every attempt to have his wife, Queen Kapiolani, give birth to his son, Liholiho there, but her illness frustrated this. Thus, Kukaniloko was revered as a sacred place through at least A.D. 1797.

Therefore, Kukaniloko is a hallowed and sacred place in the legends of Hawaii and should be accorded the highest measure of protection.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McAllister, J. Gilbert
 1933 Archaeology of Oahu
 Bishop Museum
 Bulletin No. 104

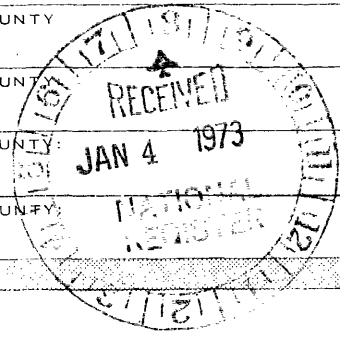
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		21° 30' 28"	158° 02' 22"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
T. STELL NEWMAN, Archaeologist

ORGANIZATION: State Parks DATE: July 1, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 621

CITY OR TOWN: Honolulu STATE: Hawaii CODE: 15

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Sunao Kido
Sunao Kido

Title: Chairman & Member
Board of Land & Natural Resources

Date: DEC 1 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/11/73

ATTEST:
W. J. [Signature]
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: 4 4 73

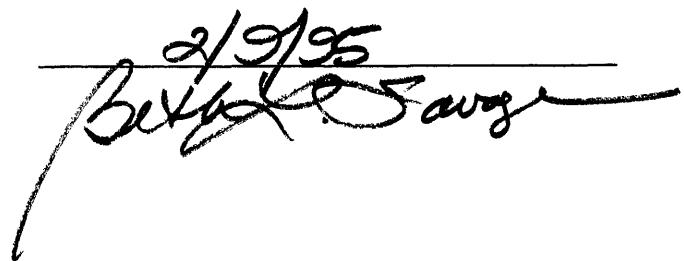
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Kukaniloko Birthstones Honolulu County HAWAII 73000674

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED

2/9/95


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: 73000674 & 94001640 Date Listed: 02/09/95

Kukaniloko Birth Site
(Boundary Increase &
Additional Information)
Property Name

Honolulu
County

HI
State

N/A
Multiple Name

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.

for Robert A. Savage
Signature of the Keeper

2/9/95
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

8. Statement of Significance: Level of Significance

The significance of the property has been evaluated at the national level.

This information has been confirmed with Tania Moy of the HISHPO by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

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