**Form 10-300**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

1. **NAME**
   - COMMON: KUKANILOKO BIRTHSTONES
   - AND/OR HISTORIC: 

2. **LOCATION**
   - STREET AND NUMBER: 465 South King Street
   - CITY OR TOWN: Honolulu
   - STATE: Hawaii

3. **CLASSIFICATION**
   - CATEGORY (Check One)
     - District
     - Site
     - Structure
     - Object
   - OWNERSHIP
     - Public
     - Private
   - Public Acquisition:
     - In Process
     - Being Considered
   - STATUS
     - Occupied
     - Unoccupied
   - ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
     - Yes: Restricted
     - No: Unrestricted
   - PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
     - Agricultural
     - Commercial
     - Educational
     - Entertainment
     - Government
     - Industrial
     - Military
     - Museum
     - Private Residence
     - Park
     - Religious
     - Scientific
     - Transportation
     - Other (Specify) 

4. **OWNER OF PROPERTY**
   - OWNER'S NAME: George Galbraith Trust Estate; Hawaiian Trust Co., Trustee
   - STREET AND NUMBER: 
   - CITY OR TOWN: Honolulu
   - STATE: Hawaii

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

6. **REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**
   - TITLE OF SURVEY:
     - Archaeology of Oahu
   - DATE OF SURVEY: 1930
   - DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
     - Bishop Museum
     - STREET AND NUMBER:
       - Kalihi Street
     - CITY OR TOWN: Honolulu
     - STATE: Hawaii
     - CODE: 15
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.
Kukaniloko is one of only two famous places in the State for the birth of children of high ranking chiefesses, 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.
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 □

Sunao Kido
Chairman & Member
Board of Land & Natural Resources
Date Dec 3, 1972
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Kukaniloko Birthstones  Honolulu County HAWAII  73000674

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED
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.

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)