

Jaime Wond

January 30, 2020

O'ahu other 2nd

### Ku'u Wahi Kūikawā: My Special Place

My special place on this island of O'ahu is part of the Nānākuli valley that starts up in the mountains and goes down to Depot's (a.k.a. The south section of Ulehawa Beach Park ). My papa on my father's side lives in Nānākuli. The valley is right behind his house. Every holiday or special occasion, I go to my papa's house and our whole family would gather, play and spend time with each other. My cousins and I often would go behind his house and play in the valley. If we didn't want to play in the valley, we would walk down to the beach, go body-boarding or fishing. Plus the walk down to the beach is only a little bit over a mile. Therefore it is very easy to get to the beach. Something that is very cool about the dry valley behind his house is that there is a huge peacock and a goat that lives there. Every once in a while one of the animals would visit.

My papa told me the *mo'olelo* (story) of how Nānākuli got its name. In ancient times it was a custom to give travelers food if passing through your town. Nānākuli is very hot and dry, so it has poor conditions for planting, but good for fishing. The people back then were ashamed to not have anything to offer, so they would try and hide every time a traveler would pass through. If they were seen they would pretend to not be able to hear the traveler. Nānākuli means "to look deaf," which is a result of the travelers telling people that the people from that region could not hear because they would not respond to them when talked to when they passed through.

According to my papa, the valley behind his house used to be very different. My papa said, "it used to be full of wildlife and many different varieties of plants. Some of the wildlife that was there were wild *pua'a* (pigs, *Sus scrofa*), *nananana makaki'i* (happy face spiders, *Theridion grallator*), *kamaloli kaka'ikahi* (rare snails), and *pulelehua* (very unique and colorful butterflies)." My dad also told me when he was younger he used to hunt wild pigs with my papa up in the valley. He would also go to Depot's beach, located on the the south section of Ulehawa Beach Park to body-board with his friends. He would also go fishing at the beaches and said there was a lot more varieties of fish before than the varieties of fish that are there now. Summer time was very hot and dry so there were often brush fires on the surrounding mountains. My papa said they would go on the roof during the summer and look at the stars and watch the brush fires on the mountain. Nānākuli is far from the city lights so the stars and glow of the fires can be easily seen at night.

In the present day it is much different than what it used to be just a few years ago. According to Hawai'i News Now, a few years ago a 2500 acre brush fire burned a lot of the trees and left the animals little to no habitat left to live in. I didn't see the goats ever come back again, but still every once in a while the peacock comes by. Sometimes my dad takes me to go fishing and I only catch a range from about three-five fish every time I go out. My papa and dad said they believe there are a lot more tourists at the beaches in Nānākuli than before when mostly only locals would go to the beach there. People posting pictures of the clean and beautiful beaches in Nānākuli may be the reason there are a lot more tourists visiting the beach now.

In the future I think Nānākuli is going to become one of the hottest and dirtiest places on this island. I say this because all of the tourists that flood in every year to see the beaches and

because of global warming. Many tourists do not pick up after themselves and leave the place all dirty, some of these tourists don't even think twice about their actions and how it will affect the locals. Global warming is also on its way and more fires are going to start. Nānākuli is already a very dry and hot place and with the heat coming in the following years I am not sure there is going to be a Nānākuli left for the future generations. To combat this problem, every now and then I go out to the beaches and clean up all the trash so Nānākuli can become a cleaner place for our future generations.

In conclusion, Nānākuli has a special place in my heart and I will forever remember the memories I have made at this place. Although Nānākuli may be overheated and trashed I will still remember the great times I have had and will share stories with future generations to come. I will also try my best to keep Nānākuli living long and strong by picking up trash on the many beautiful beaches to keep them pristine. I hope Nānākuli will not lose its special touch and that this place will thrive in the future.

## Works Cited

Bishop Museum. (n.d.). Hawaii Biological Survey. Retrieved from [hbs.bishopmuseum.org/good-bad/hbs1.html](https://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/good-bad/hbs1.html).

Davis, C., et al. (n.d.). Home. Retrieved from <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com>.

Hawaiian Dictionary. (2020). Nā Puke Wehewehe 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. Retrieved from [wehewehe.org/gsd12.85/cgi-bin/hdict?e=q-11000-00---off-0hdict--00-1----0-10-0---0---0direct-10-ED--4--textpukuieibert%2Ctextnamaka-----0-11--11-haw-Zz-1---Zz-1-home-ka-maloli--00-4-1-00-0--4----0-0-11-00-0utfZz-8-00&a=d&d=D35608](https://wehewehe.org/gsd12.85/cgi-bin/hdict?e=q-11000-00---off-0hdict--00-1----0-10-0---0---0direct-10-ED--4--textpukuieibert%2Ctextnamaka-----0-11--11-haw-Zz-1---Zz-1-home-ka-maloli--00-4-1-00-0--4----0-0-11-00-0utfZz-8-00&a=d&d=D35608).

Ulukau. (2020). Hawai'i Place Names. Retrieved from [ulukau.org/elib/cgi-bin/library?e=d-0cpn-000Sec--11-50-20-frameset-book--1-010escapewin&a=d&d=D0&toc=0](https://ulukau.org/elib/cgi-bin/library?e=d-0cpn-000Sec--11-50-20-frameset-book--1-010escapewin&a=d&d=D0&toc=0).