

All who gather fern, lehua, mauli, native woods, medicinal plants and hunt in Hawaii's forests:

We face an immediate crisis with the bulldozing of Wao Kele O Puna Forest Reserve. We are challenged to stop the destruction of this last lowland tropical forest on our native Hawaiian public trust lands and exercise our traditional gathering rights. Watch this new video.



PELE'S APPEAL

A 30 minute ethno-documentary produced by the Pele Defense Fund Na Maka O Ka Aina. Features: traditional and contemporary Pele customs and practices; Hawaiian medicinal herbal healers; wood carvers; lei makers; and native birds. Exposes: destruction of the forest ecosystem; the ceded lands exchange; killing of native plant species; health hazards; and loss of native rights due to geothermal energy development. (see showing schedule on back)

JOIN US ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1989 AT NOON

CLAIM HAWAIIAN CEDED LANDS IN WAO KELE O PUNA

EXERCISE OUR TRADITIONAL GATHERING RIGHTS

STOP DESTRUCTION OF OUR LAST LOWLAND RAINFOREST

* Meet at the Pahoa School Parking Lot. For a ride or more information contact: Pele Defense Fund Office (Hilo) 935-1663.

PELE DEFENSE FUND FACT SHEET

Geothermal energy plants are being proposed at Kapoho and at the Wao Kele O Puna Natural Area Forest Reserve. In Kapoho, the Lyman and Bishop Estates are making their lands available to Ormat, an Israeli energy company based in Nevada. They plan to build a 25 megawatt plant to supply electricity to Hawai'i Island. The situation at Wao Kele O Puna is more complex.

CEDED LANDS SWAP

These lands are part of the Crown and Kingdom lands that were confiscated by the Provisional Government at the time of the 1893 overthrow and then ceded to the U.S. government at the time of Annexation in 1898. Transferred at statehood, they are known today as the ceded public lands trust, and managed by the State of Hawai'i's Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for two beneficiaries - the native Hawaiians and the general public. Section 5f of the Admissions Act says that the land is to be used for five purposes:

The support of the public schools and other public educational institutions, for the betterment of the conditions of native Hawaiians, as defined in the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended, for the development of farm and home ownership on as widespread a basis as possible for the making of public improvements, and for the provision of lands for public use.

In 1985, the DLNR gave 27,000 acres of the Wao Kele O Puna to Campbell Estate in exchange for 25,000 acres at Kahauale'a. However, 15,000 acres at Kahauale'a are covered with freshly erupted lava, 1,200 acres are wood chipped, and 5,600 acres is promised to the Volcano National Park. This leaves our public land trust with only 3,200 acres of forested land.

GEOHERMAL POWER PLANTS WILL DESTROY THE FOREST FOREVER

Campbell Estate needed the land exchange after Pele began to erupt right at the center of their Kahauale'a lands where they had planned to dig geothermal wells. The developer of this geothermal project is True/Midpacific Geothermal Company out of Wyoming. They want to dig up to 200 wells and build as many as 5 power plants to generate as much as 500 megawatts to transport to O'ahu through an undersea cable for which there is no available technology. The forest will be cleared so that miles of roads and pipelines can be built for the complex of electric plants and transmission lines, including cooling towers and acres of dropout ponds where water contaminated with waste chemicals will slowly seep into the Puna water table. Like the existing HGPA power plant in Pohoiki, these plants will emit foul odors and poisonous gases that will cause respiratory sicknesses and kill off the native forest life. The Puna forest sits on top of the active rift zone at the epicenter of earth tremors and earthquakes. Pele is actively erupting in this zone. Any electric plant that is built there will be vulnerable to leakage, faulting and could collapse.

TRADITIONS OF THE WAO KELE O PUNA FOREST

Wao Kele O Puna, meaning Puna rain belt, is the last lowland tropical rainforest on Hawai'i. It was set aside as a Natural Area Reserve to protect the native Hawaiian plants, birds and insects who dwell there. 95 percent of the plants and animals in this forest cannot be found anywhere else in the world and several are already endangered.

In Pele traditions, the plants and trees of the Puna forest are kino lau or body forms of family members of Pele who help to calm the more aggressive nature of the volcano. The forest is a natural filter for gases that are emitted by the volcano. The trees and plants found here help the forest to grow back and regenerate after a lava flow. Their ecosystem amidst active volcanism is important to learn about the evolution of all life. The forest is alive with medicinal plants for healing such as 'ama'u, moa, pa'i niu. It is lush with fern, maile and 'ohi'a lehua used by hula dancers for dress and lei. It has woods used for carving.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN GATHERING RIGHTS

Hawaiians have traditional rights to gather plant materials for medicinal, household and religious purposes. The law states that tenants within an ahupua'a have the right to enter undeveloped lands to gather materials needed for practicing native Hawaiian customs and traditions, such as firewood, house-timber, aho cord, thatch, or ki leaf. The exchange of this public land to Campbell Estate will cut off traditional public access to the forest for gathering of plant materials and for hunting.

TAXPAYERS AND CONSUMERS WILL PAY THE BILL

Geothermal energy will not reduce our reliance on foreign oil. Only 30 percent of imported fossil fuels are used to generate electricity, the rest is used for transportation. The State of Hawai'i has never done an in-depth least-cost energy study to justify its geothermal policy. Such a study would show that it is an exorbitant, highly speculative and dangerous source of electricity. The total cost to develop geothermal electricity for O'ahu, including the cable is \$4 billion. By comparison, the total operating budget of the County of Hawai'i for one year is \$70 million. Taxpayers, nationally and locally, will pay the cost of developing geothermal energy. Rate payers will pay much higher utility bills for many years to come, like the utility consumers in Washington State. They will be paying back bonds that were issued to build 5 nuclear plants over the next 20 years, when only one will actually ever be built.

ONLY HAWAIIAN ESTATES AND UTILITY COMPANIES WILL BENEFIT

Who will benefit from geothermal energy? Not the taxpayers, not the users of electricity, not the native Hawaiians, and not the residents in the surrounding agricultural communities. The Campbell, Lyman and Bishop Estates; True/Midpacific Geothermal Company and Ormatt; as well as HELCO, HECO and HEI will all profit from geothermal energy development.

STATE OF HAWAII IS PAYING FOR GEOTHERMAL DEVELOPMENT

The Ariyoshi administration made it very easy for Campbell to get permits for geothermal energy plants in the Wao Kele O Puna. In addition to the illegal ceded land swap, environmental and archaeology studies were not required for drilling at Wao Kele O Puna. The State of Hawai'i's Department of Business and Economic Development has contracted the University of Hawai'i to drill scientific observation wells which will explore the amount of volcanic heat and steam available to generate electricity.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ACT

You can kokua your support NOW while we still have a chance:

- * Join our gathering exercise on October 14, 1989 at noon in the Wao Kele O Puna (meet in the Pahoa School Parking Lot).
- * Send a contribution to help bring people together for direct action to protect the forest - Pele Defense Fund P.O. Box 404 / Volcano, Hawai'i 96785
- * Express your concerns against geothermal development to: Bill Paty / Department of Land and Natural Resources / 1151 Punchbowl St. / Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813.