From: Hawai‘i Island Nā Ala Hele Advisory Council Division of Forestry and Wildlife
19E Kāwili Street Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720

To: Hawai‘i Board on Geographical Names- State Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96804-2359

SUBJECT: Proper name for the Wailuku River Confluence Lookout and access trail

Aloha mai kākou,

The Hawai‘i Island Nā Ala Hele (NAH) Trails council is requesting a determination by the Hawai‘i Board of Geographical Names for an appropriate place name for an area and trail which is located on Hawai‘i Island, South Hilo district, Pi‘ihonua ahupua‘a, longitude -155.153021 and latitude 19.710552. The tax map key numbers are 3-2009002,003, 004, 012, and 3-26018004. The property shareholders are Hawai‘i State DLNR and the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. This area of the Wailuku River is remote, and is accessible by hiking, bicycling and serviced by 4-wheel drive. The confluence lookout has become a popular destination for residents and tourists alike. It is an area with many extraordinary geological and hydrological features including multiple waterfalls, streams, lava tubes and an extremely beautiful and unique vista. Within the last decade, the name “Narnia” has emerged through social media, namely Facebook, and has become a widely used name for this location.

Due to the popularity and increasing use of the trail and lookout, the NAH trail council was approached by Pi‘ihonua residents that live in close proximity to this site, and requested assistance in locating a proper access point that does not imped the local residents. NAH and DLNR evaluated property lines, and a alternate access point was established. The NAH trail council then realized the cultural signifigance of the trail and lookout, thus began its search for a culturally appropriate name. NAH trail council has given this site a temporary name, the “Wailuku River Confluence lookout trail” for discussion purposes

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within our meetings. Therefore, our trail council is seeking a proper inoa ʻōlelo Hawaiʻi (Hawaiian name) for this location.

Over the last two years, our research team has accumulated data on this subject starting from ancestrial moʻolelo, the story of Māui rescuing his mother Hina from the dragon moʻo, Moʻokunu. We have to look at stories like this, mainly due to the fact that nearly all Hawaiian stories list the wahi pana in that area. From here, we then look at time of the Monarchy, which includes maps of the area from the University of Hawaiʻi at Hilo Moʻokini Library archives, news paper articles from Kū ʻŌkoʻa, Ka Hoku o Hawaiʻi and Ka Hae o Hawaiʻi that were published in 1863, 1868, 1923, 1926 and 1928, all printed in ʻŌlelo Hawaiʻi. There was also a significant report that was published in 1941, "Geology and Ground Water resources Island of Hawaiʻi-bulletin 9", that discussed the history of Ka-puka-ā-Māui as a water source. There are also USGS survey maps from the 1980ʻs which list place names of this area, as well as sugar cane era maps from 1901 through the 1930ʻs which also list place names pertaining to this area. The research team has also conducted numerous interviews with the public from the Wailuku/Piʻihonua area, which helped researchers conclude that being a watershed area, this area had little to no public access for nearly 80 years. This fact alone shows how place names can dissapear. The Monarch era maps and newspaper articles have shed light on its importance to Hawaiian culture. Our research team has also been in contact with the University of Hawaiʻi at Hilo Hawaiian language school, Ka Haka ʻUla o Keʻelikōlani. This resource has given our research team excellent context as well as a "Hawaiian perspective" to this naming process.

The trail begins off of Piʻihonua road (Long -155.134086 Lat. 19.712153), on Makana Place and climbs 1.5 miles to the lookout. There is a closed gate with access around the gate. This road then leads to a doubletrack trail, and climbs .4 miles along a powerline, and then connects to a short, paved road used by Department of Water Supply service vehicles to maintain three water tanks, as well as access to the Wailuku River hydroelectric plant. While climbing uphill on the double track road, you will pass the first

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water tank, the Pi‘ihonua 1 M. gallon tank, then a large capacity cistern. There old old 16” water pipes visible (presumably 100 years old) at this site. This road then arrives at the second water tank named “Kahoama tank” at 1.3 miles from the start. At this juncture the double track road reaches a four-way intersection. There is a double track road that accesses the lookout to the north (.2 miles), another double track road that continues west uphill (.2 miles) towards two cisterns and an old metal bridge that crosses the Kahoama stream to an acient trail that assended to Ka-puka-ā-Māui, a land bridge, cave and water source. In its time, this trail allowed travelers to safely cross the Wailuku. For reference, Ka Puka ā Māui is directly above the confluence lookout. There is also a double track road that splits off the ancient trail and continues uphill 3 miles to the Wailuku Hydroelectric plant intake pipes, as well as one more paved road heading south to another water tank site (approx. 2 Miles).

When arriving at the lookout, there is a large mound known as Pu‘ulo on the kai side of the confluence zone. From this site the visitor will see three streams entering the Wailuku River. These streams are the Wailuku, the Kahoama, Kalōhewahewa and Kōkelekele. The Kalōhewahewa and Kōkelekele streams connect in to a single stream referred to as the Ho‘okelekele stream. There are multiple waterfalls at the confluence lookout; Lauiole, which is connected to the Wailuku, Pukamāui, which is also connected to the Wailuku, Ka‘uwehu and Ka‘uwehu iki falls, which is connected to the Ho’okelekele stream. There are also two unnamed waterfalls coming off of the Kahoama stream, one a 60 foot drop, and the other is approximetly 5 feet. There is also a rapid section just below the lookout named Laohia. All of these features are visible from the lookout.

Historically, Hawaiians climbed to the site Ka-puka-ā-Māui. Ka-puka-ā-Māui was a large cave and land bridge made from a pāhoehoe lava flow, and where water entered off of the Wailuku and then came out down stream of the Wailuku. Hawai‘i Place Names, written by Mary Kawena Pukui, lists this place as the natural land bridge of the Wailuku (pg 90). In 1898 this area was purchased by the newly formed Hawai‘i Territory as a water source for Hilo. This water source was then named the “Pukamāui intake”, and

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operated by the Hilo city water department. After years of deliberation, the pipes were set and the "Pukamāui intake" was delivering fresh water to Hilo, at a rate of approximately one million gallons a day. However, after the great flood of 1928, a shift in river sediment diverted the river flow through Ka-Puka-ā-Māui cave just above Pukamāui falls, which caused the water to flow a quarter mile to the north to the Ho'okelekele stream, which then lowered the water level signifigantly to the point where Ka-Puka-ā-Māui cave had to be sealed and walled up. It was at this time the lava land bridge was destroyed to fill up Ka-Puka-ā-Māui, and water was then rediverted back to the Pukamāui intake. This diversion also changed the flow of water to Pukamāui falls, so that now this waterfall only flows during heavy rain and flooding.

After the land sale of this site in 1898 the area was deemed a watershed area, which forbad the public to enter the area. However by the 1930's there were multiple intakes built on these streams by the sugar cane industry. By the mid seventies, the land below the confluence was referred to as the "J7 ranch". It was also at this time where a hydroelectric plant was built, and water was being diverted to this new plant from a dam built in the 1940's just below the lookout. Subsequently, three large pipe systems where built about three miles up stream, in which water was then pulled directly from the Wailuku, Kalōhewahewa and the Kōkelekele streams to the hydo plant. Due to the ever changing sediment deposits from multitudes of storms, as well as the technology to dig deep wells, the Pukamāui intake became obsolite, and the ancient trail became unused.

There are several place names in this area that evolved through time to shortened names, primarily due to English language influence. The word Kapukaāmāui, is actually four words, Ka-puka-ā-Māui. The " ā " has no signifigant english translation, so it was assumed that it was a part of the word "puka". This " ā" is signifigant in Hawaiian language due to it being a determiner word. Therefore, Pukamāui falls in Hawaiian language is spelled Puka-ā-Māui falls. Also, Lauiole falls is "Lau'iole falls", and Kauwehu falls is "ka'uwehu". Research uncovered that the name "Ho'okelekele" was actually "Kōkelekele" stream. The

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Nā Ala Hele trail council is requesting that these place names also be corrected on the DLNR place names list. Furthermore, our commitee is at an impass in requesting a determination for a name for the “area” or just the lookout itself.

Historically, our findings show that Ka-puka-ā-Māui was used as the reference name for this area. However, there are multiple place names within this area, which include but are not limited to; Puʻuloa, Kahoama, Lauʻiole, Kalōhewahewa, Kōkelekele, Piʻihonua, and Wailuku. There was also place name that was suggested by a kūpuna for the lookout, which was “ Ke-Poʻo-o-ka-Wailuku”, which translates to “headwaters of the Wailuku”. All of these place names would be satifactory to our communitee.

The NAH trail council hopes that the research and the findings we have provided on this subject will help to not only revitalize this inoa wahi pana and the history of the Wailuku River, but to also offer aid to Hawaiʻi State agencies such as DLNR, Nā Ala Hele, and other local grass roots organizations in educating kamaʻāina and malihini alike in proper Hawaiian word use, pronunciation, and contectualization of Hawaiian words and place names. This will in turn help Nā Ala Hele set standards in the proper usage of ʻOlelo hawaiʻi at all wahi pana sites throughout the Pae ʻĀina of Hawaiʻi.

Na mākou me ka haʻahaʻa,

Na Terrence Noda

Chairman, Nā Ala Hele hawaiʻi Island

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Sources

Westervelt, W.D. 1910, Legends of Māui Demi god of Polynesia, and of his mother Hina Pg 145-153

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Kuna heard the crash of the club against the stones
of the river bank and fled up the river to his home in
the hidden caves by the pools in the river bed. Maui
rushed up the river to punish Kuna-mo-o for the
trouble he had caused Hina. When he carme to the
place where the dragon was hidden under deep waters,
he took his magic spear and thrust it through the dirt
and lava rocks along one side of the river, making a
long hole, through which the waters rushed, revealing
Kuna-mo-o's hiding place. This place of the spear
thrust is known among the Hawaiians as Ka puka
a Maui, "the door made by Maui." It is also known
as "The natural bridge of the Wailuku river."
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Ka Nupepa Kuokoa Moluhi, He Kaao no Hawaii nei Kepakemapa 12 1863.png

lakou a pau me ke aloha nui, a noni kekahi i kekahi : a noho malie lakou ma ka hale i keia la a po, i pau ka poniuniu o ka moku.

A i ke kakahiaka ana ae, makemake o Kekaha ma e hele koke i ka Puka a Maui, oia ka uwapo pahoehoe a Keakaae i hana ai, no ka muliwai o Wailuku ; he uwapo ikaika a maloeloe, aole e helelei ke hele na lio eiwa maluna ona, e like me ka uwapo lapuwale ma Hilo.

Ua lohe o Kekaha i na keiki o Hilo, he moolelo kupanaha no Puka o Maui, mai ka poe kahiko mai ; nolaila kona wikiwiki e hele, aka, mea mai na kamaaina aole e hiki, ua nui ka ua mauka, a nui no hoi ke poho, ame ke ino o ke alanui ; aohe he alanui, he pahoehoe ma kau wahi, o ka nahelehele ame ke poho, oia ka nui, nolaila, e kali oukou a loaa kekahi mau la malie, ame ke alakai kamaaina i lohe maopopo lakou, i ka moolelo kahiko no Puka o Maui.

hana Pilikino Ho'oka'a'ike

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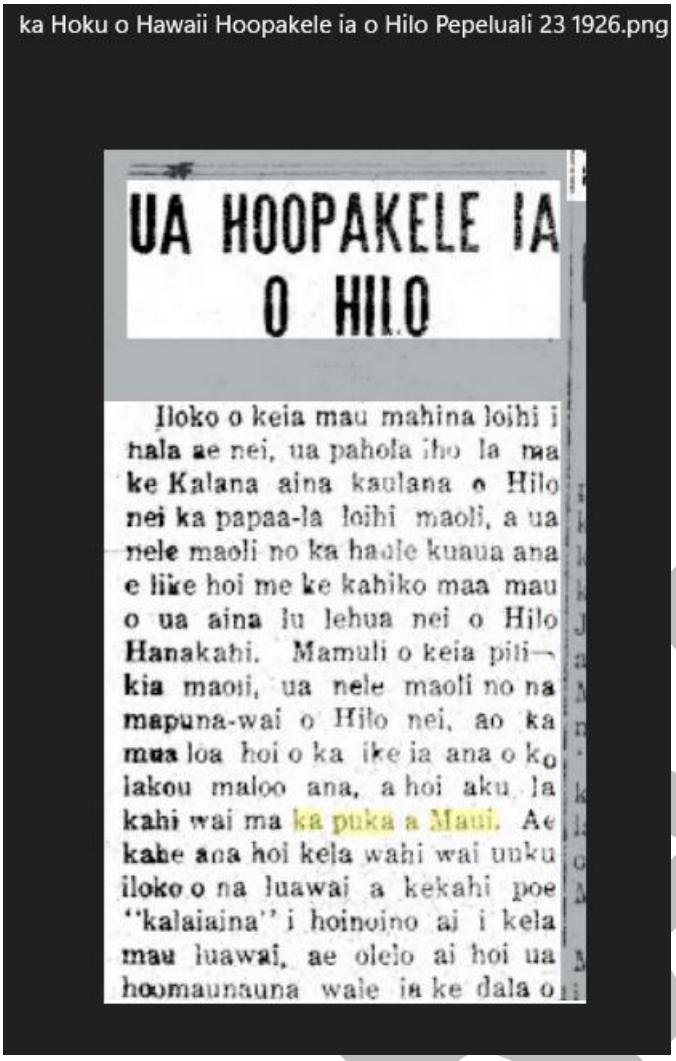
ka Hoku o Hawaii Hoopakele ia o Hilo Pepeluali 23 1926.png



UA HOOPAKELE IA O HILO

Iloko o keia mau mahina loihi i hala ae nei, ua pahola iho la ma ke Kalana aina kaulana o Hilo nei ka papaa-la loihi maoli, a ua nele maoli no ka haole kuaua ana e like hoi me ke kahiko maa mau o ua aina lu lehua nei o Hilo Hanakahi. Mamuli o keia pili-kia maoli, ua nele maoli no na mapuna-wai o Hilo nei, ao ka mua loa hoi o ka ike ia ana o ko lakou maloo ana, a hoi aku la kahi wai ma ka puka a Maui. Ae kahe ana hoi kela wahi wai uuku iloko o na luawai a kekahi poe "kalaiaina" i hoinoino ai i kela mau luawai, ae olelo ai hoi ua hoomaunauna wale ia ke dala o

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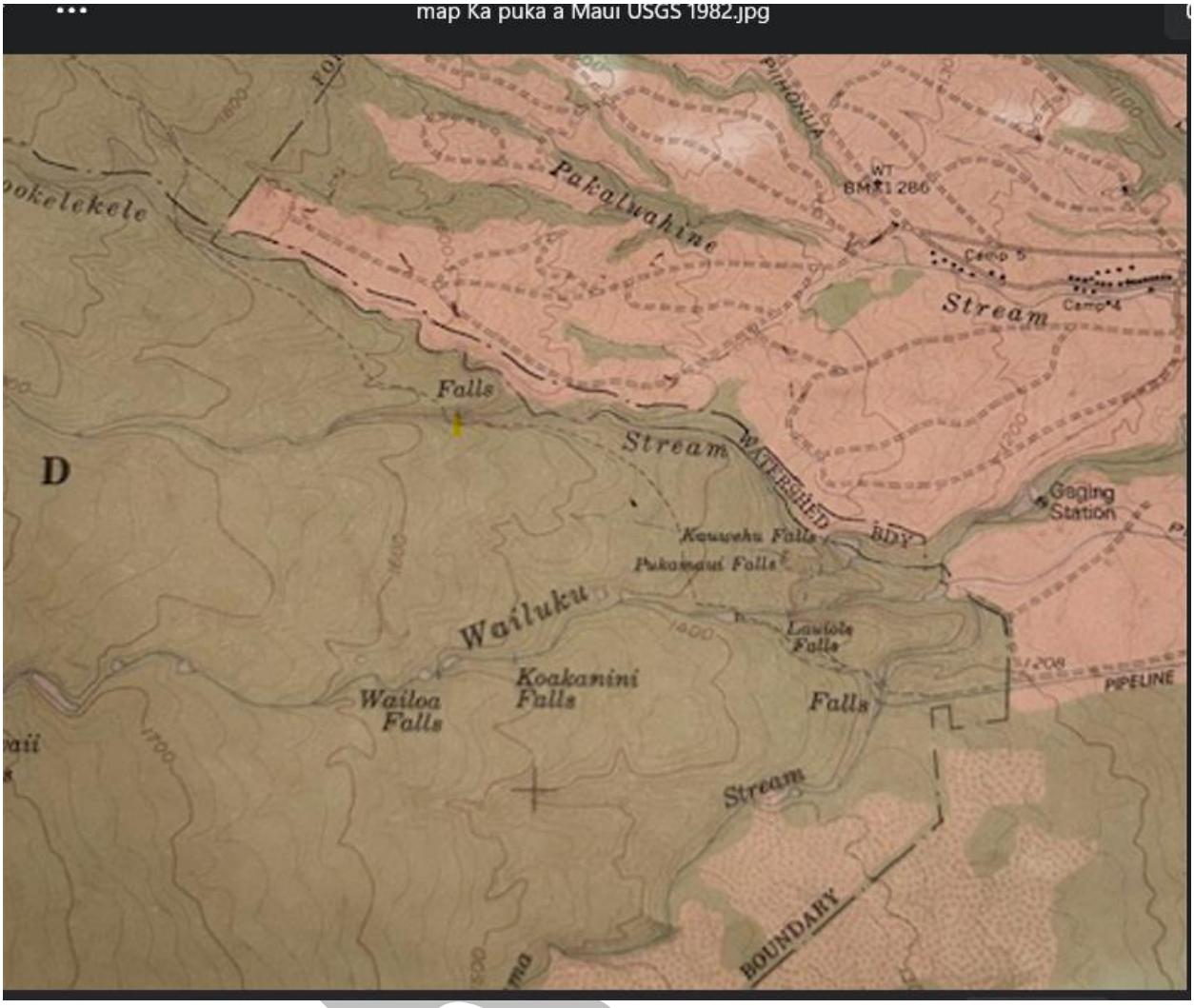
map Ka puka a Maui USGS 1982.jpg
Pakaluahine
Stream
Falls
Stream
WATERSHED
BDY
Kauwehu Falls
Pukamaui Falls
Wailuku
Lauiole Falls
Koakanini Falls
Wailoa Falls
Falls
Stream
BOUNDARY
Gaging Station
PIPELINE
Camp 5
Camp 4
D

PUKAmaui Falls 1938 enlarged.png
Evangelical
FOREST RESERVE
PUKAMAUI INTAKE
HILO CITY WATER SUPPLY.
Kahoama Stream
Lauiole Falls.
KAHOAMA INTAKE
1400
FIELD 7
175·20
1300
PIIHONUA CAMP 5
FIELD 36
30·79 Ac.
1200

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gallons per square mile per year, or 3.25 million gallons per square mile per day. Taking the total area of the island as 4,030 square miles, the average rainfall over the whole island is 13,085 million gallons daily, or 4,776,477 million gallons a year.

SURFACE WATER

The steep permeable terrane and the intensity of the rainfall make all streams flashy. A marked difference exists in the character of the low-water runoff from the ash-covered permeable slopes of Mauna Kea and that from the deeply eroded surface of Kohala Mountain where it is derived from large ground-water bodies. Streams are scarce except on Mauna Kea and Kohala Mountain as shown by the map of ephemeral and perennial streams, figure 38. A summary of the records of stream flow for the island of Hawaii has been published.[9] Daily discharges in Hawaii are published in the annual Surface Water-Supply Papers of the U. S. Geological Survey.[10]

An unusual type of natural stream diversion occurred on March 25, 1937, when a flood caused extensive shifting of bar gravels and other sedimentary deposits along the Wailuku River. It was known that about 50 years ago there had existed a lava tube 25 feet wide and 15 feet high, known as Pukamaui, which led northward from the Wailuku River above Pukamaui Falls (pl. 53C). The Polynesian demigod Maui was said to make this hole his part-time residence. The entrance to this cave had, however, become plugged with flood gravels, and its precise location generally forgotten. The flood of July, 1928, removed the gravel deposit, and the entire flow of the Wailuku River was diverted through the lava tube, emerging in Kokelekele Stream a quarter of a mile to the northeast. The entrance to the tube had to be walled up because it was situated in the intake basin of the Hilo water system, and lowered the water level below that of the intake pipe.

The several large ditch and flume systems that transport water for irrigating and fluming sugar cane are shown in figure 38. The Kohala Ditch Company supplies water to the Kohala Sugar Company plantation. It maintains two large ditch systems. The Kohala ditch diverts water from an altitude of 2,000 feet in Waikaloa Gulch and extends chiefly as a tunnel to the west rim of Pololu Canyon and thence as ditch and tunnel to an altitude of 949 feet, southwest of Hawi, a total length of more than 18 miles. It cost $770,548.

[9] Surface water-supply records (1901–1938) Hawaii: Hawaii Terr. Plan. Bd., Summary of Records, pp. 351–411, Honolulu, 1939.

[10] U. S. Geol. Survey Water-Supply Papers 318, 336, 373, 430, 445, 465, 483, 515, 516, 525, 555, 573, 595, 615, 635, 655, 675, 695, 710, 725, 740, 755, 770, 795, 815, 835, 865, 885, 905, 935, 965, 1913–1943; no. 795, pp. 11–12, contains a list of the gaging stations and the years each was in operation.

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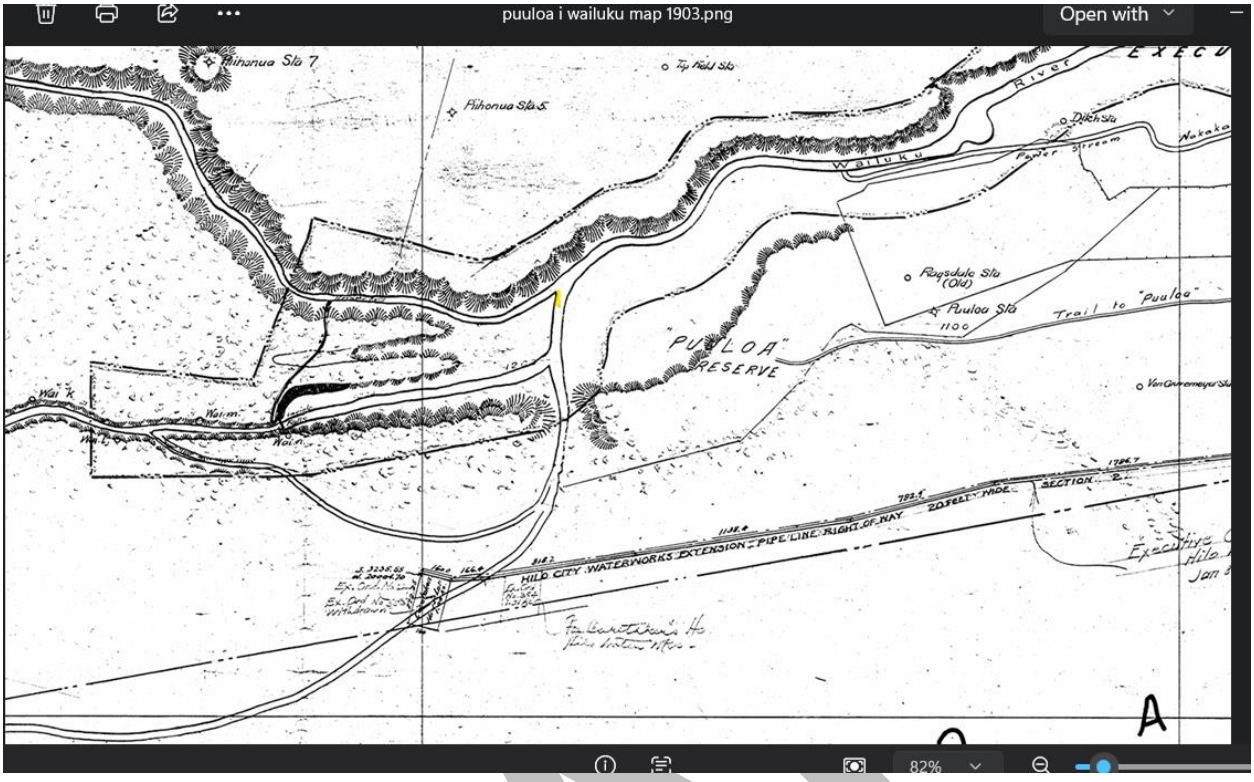
puuloa i wailuku map 1903.png
Open with
Piihonua Sta 7
Piihonua Sta 5
Wailuku
River
Power Stream
Ragsdale Sta (Old)
Puuloa Sta
1100
Trail to "Puuloa"
"PUULOA" RESERVE
Wai K
Wai m
Wai n
HILO CITY WATERWORKS EXTENSION - PIPE LINE RIGHT OF WAY
20 FEET WIDE
SECTION 2
A
82%

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