KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

A SUMMARY OF KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS CULTURAL RESOURCE STRATEGIES FOR THE KAKA'AKO REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Understanding the History of a Place

Kamehameha Schools (KS) is committed to responsible land stewardship and the protection of our *wahi kūpuna* (ancestral places) including *iwi kūpuna* (ancestral remains). As an *ali'i* trust and an organization dedicated to the education of native Hawaiians, KS recognizes its obligation to the perpetuation of our cultural resources and assets for future generations. Within the Kaka'ako region, KS land holdings comprise the 'ili of Ka'ākaukukui, which is part of the original land legacy passed down by Victoria Kamāmalu to Bernice Pauahi Bishop, and traceable to the lineages of Kohala and Kona chiefs, and foreign advisors that aided Kamehameha I in his unification of Hawai'i.

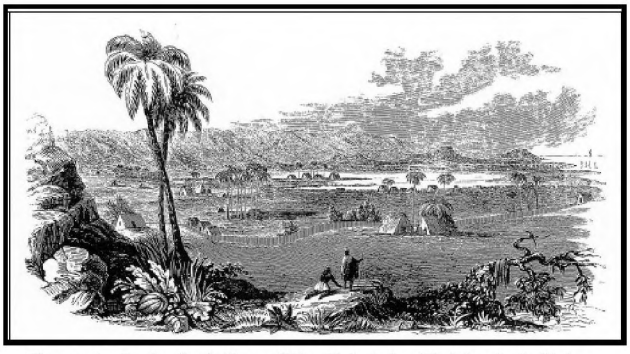

Figure 1. Early depiction of the Kaka'ako (Ka'ākaukukui) Area in Honolulu about 1847 (McElroy et. al 2008).

Traditional pre-contact land tenure in Kaka'ako (Ka'ākaukukui) indicates that this area comprised of fishing villages situated in a coastal wetland landscape dominated by fishponds and saltpans. Fishing was the primary occupation of Native Hawaiians and the presence of numerous fishponds suggests that there was a strong presence of chiefly influence over the area. Traditional land division boundaries demonstrate that the area was divided into *'ili lele* or "jumping strips", so coastal residents could use the inland valleys of Nu'uanu, Pauoa, Makiki, and Mānoa. By the time of the Māhele in the mid-1800's, the region had become a popular residential area for Hawaiian royalty, due to its proximity to Honolulu and the harbor. Most of the Land Commission Awards reference Kaka'ako being designated for high ranking *ali'i* or members of the extended royal family. There is very little evidence of *hoa'āina* (native tenants) making land claims to properties in this region.

The transformation of Kaka'ako from a modest fishing village to the urban cityscape that we know today has left behind a complicated sub-surface history. The original wetland area that was progressively filled with dredged coral creating a complex scenario for urban re-development. In the master planning process for the Kaka'ako region, Kamehameha Schools has demonstrated great effort in identifying potential historic properties and features, including potential burials that may exist in the subsurface deposits of their parcels boundaries. This includes ethno-historic study of regional land use, utilization of historic maps in geographic information systems, and strategic archaeological sub-surface testing. This information provides valuable insight and context for master planning and specific project planning. As implementation of the master plan unfolds, Kamehameha Schools will be adopting a rigorous approach to ensure the proper protection and treatment of Hawaiian cultural resources. Early identification and consultation with key stakeholders, appropriate groups and organizations, as well as government agencies will help us to all meet mutual consensus and identify proper protocols for the treatment of any cultural resources and burials that may be encountered.

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DEVELOPING A MODEL OF PROACTIVE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Starting with a Regional Ethno-Historical Approach

Kamehameha Schools has taken a proactive approach to cultural resource management stewardship for the re-development of the Kaka'ako region. Last year, 2008, an ethno-historic study of Kaka'ako (Ka'ākaukukui) was completed by Garcia and Associates, which investigated pre-contact Hawaiian land use and early historic land use using a combination of resources including: archival documents concerning Hawaiian oral traditions, stories, place names, historical accounts, maps, photographs, and Māhele awards. The study also resulted in interviews of individuals who lived and worked in the area in the 1920's and 1960's. This extensive original background research with special emphasis on Kamehameha Schools' parcels helped provide valuable insight on changing land use in the region over time and the connection Native Hawaiians have to the area. Ethno-historic studies are the first step in helping us to understand the broad history of a region, and allowing us to re-engage the people who have historic ties and linkages to these places.

Utilizing Historic Maps to Understand a Changing Landscape

The project continued with the geo-referencing of historic maps derived from a number of collections including: KS internal map collections, the State of Hawai'i Survey Office, publications, and Sanborn Fire Insurance maps. Approximately 30 historic maps were used that depicted changing land use patterns over time and had become an important predictive tool in understanding what might be in the sub-surface under the existing urban landscape.

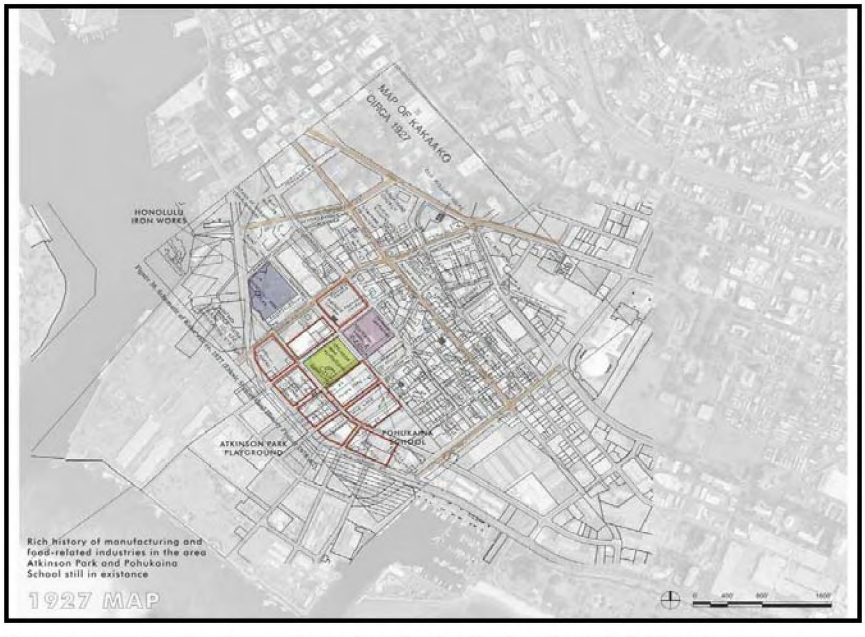

Figure 2. An example of geo-referencing of Kaka'ako (Ka'ākaukukui) historic maps to understand land use at different points in history as it relates to KS parcels.

Kamehameha Schools also completed archaeological investigations last year for their properties located makai of Ala Moana Boulevard. An inspection of historical maps gathered in the ethno-historic study gave early indication that land on the makai side would be comprised of fill deposits as the original coast of Kaka'ako began in the vicinity of Ala Moana Boulevard. The sub-surface testing verified that indeed the makai parcels were entirely comprised of dredged fill placed upon a shallow near-shore reef and that there is no potential of encountering intact burials or cultural resource deposits in this area.

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Developing a Archaeological Inventory Survey Plan (AISP)

Kamehameha Schools is currently developing Archaeological Inventory Survey Plans (AISP) for each of its 16 properties (29 TMK parcels) on the mauka side of Ala Moana Boulevard. The AISP will highlight our overall strategy for the mauka region and will be the beginning of a long-term iterative process between archaeological investigations and utilizing this data in making informed decisions on planning and development. The AISP is a key additional step that is not normally required in the process. KS has included this step because it provides stakeholders an opportunity to give input on the methodology and for all parties (State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), Descendant Groups, O'ahu Island Burial Council (OIBC), and other Hawaiian organizations) to reach a consensus on the best course forward (avoiding later conflict, misunderstanding, and disagreement).

This initial survey plan will utilize our previous ethno-historic study and information, along with host of other information (such as previous archaeological studies, geotechnical information such as boring logs, stratigraphic information on soils, and field work results- ground penetrating radar with ground-truthing). These layers of information help to inform and develop a sampling strategy as each individual parcel is examined. The strategy will outline: 1) what subsurface deposits can be examined in both the pre- and post-demolition stages of development; and 2) the specifics of how many trenches, sizes, locations, and coverage will be deemed adequate. Once the AIS Plan is approved each parcel will have an individual Archaeological Inventory Survey (AIS) completed as development plans move forward. Additional strategies will need to be employed once the AIS process is underway that anticipates and mitigates any potential impact to any burials and cultural layers encountered (See Appendix 1. Flow Chart of the KS Cultural Resource Management Process).

Figure 3. One of the thirteen consultation meetings held last year with Descendant Groups, OIBC, SHPD, and other Hawaiian organizations.

Having an early plan will provide us with framework for archaeological investigations in the region, and more importantly allow for meaningful consultation to occur with the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), any lineal and cultural descendants from the area, the O'ahu Island Burial Council (OIBC), as well as other Hawaiian organizations. Given the existing constraints of having existing buildings and current ongoing business in the area, this is the most progressive and proactive strategy that can be developed within the urban corridor to address and mitigate the potential discovery of *iwi kūpuna*.

Exploring New Technologies to Understand the Archaeological Record

Kamehameha Schools has gone to considerable extents to explore new technologies to be utilized in the AIS process. We met early on with the U.H. Department of Geology, and also with leading consultants Geo Geophysics Labs, Inc. to determine if there were non-intrusive ways of gathering information on the covered subsurface deposits exiting under building foundations. The use of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) was tested with limited success, requiring the need to ground-truthing through conventional excavation. Coring proved to be the most realistic and cost effective means to gather such information. It allows for minimally intrusive holes to be dug through the foundations of existing building and concrete without compromising their structural integrity, and allowing intact deposits to be extracted. Archaeologists are able to determine if sandy burial deposits exist prior to the demolition of the building. The developer, government agencies, and descendant groups can anticipate and plan upfront for the likelihood of encountering *iwi kūpuna*. Kamehameha Schools will continue to look for new ways to do cultural resource management in a manner that is culturally sensitive and effectively provides us with early information.

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References

McElroy, W, A. Sims, and M. Desilets. 2008. Ethno-historic Inventory Study of Kaka'ako. Report prepared for Kamehameha Schools. GANDA Report No. 2133-1.

McElroy, Windy. 2008. Archaeological Assessment of TMKs 2-10-059:011 and :012 in Kaka'ako, Honolulu Ahupua'a, Kona District, O'ahu Island, Hawai'i. GANDA Report No. 2133-2.

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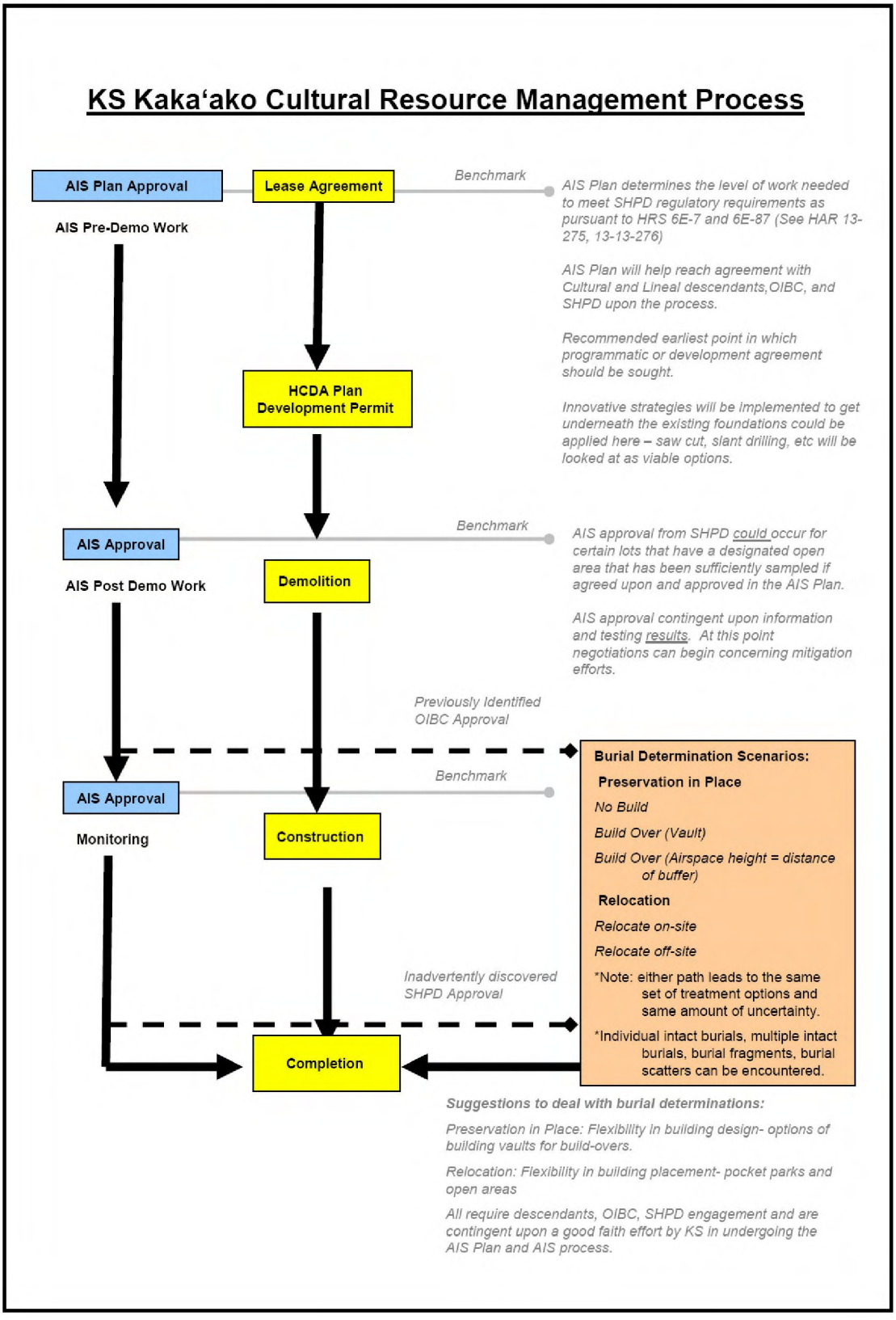
Appendix 1: Flow Chart of KS Cultural Resource Management Process (From AIS Plan approval to development completion)