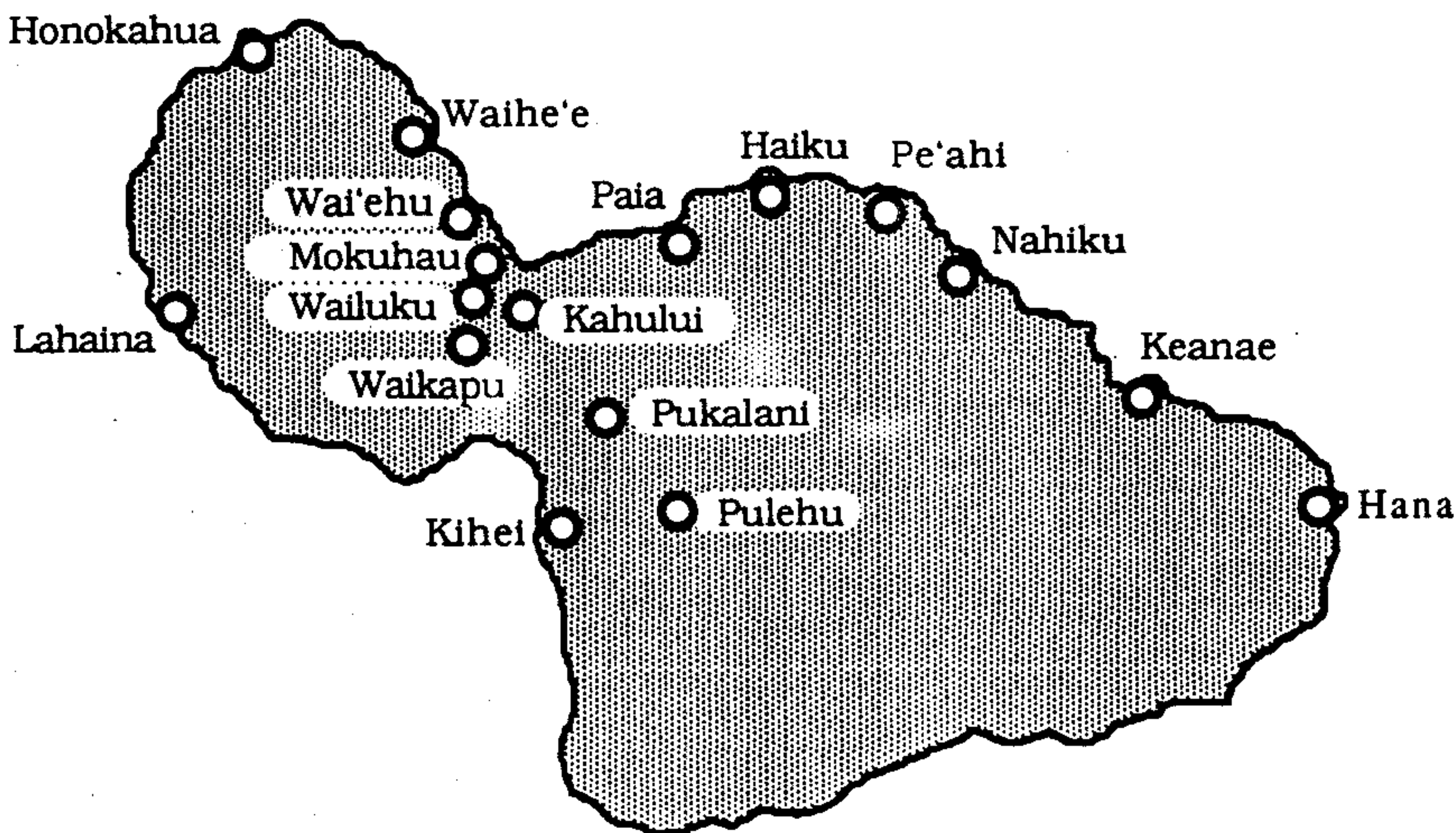


## CHAPELS ON THE ISLAND OF MAUI

by Jubilee H. Moikeha

The Island of Maui has played an integral role in the growth of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Hawaii. It was from Maui that Gospel was rapidly spread and accepted throughout the islands. From the time of George Q. Cannon to Matthew Cowley to President David O. McKay the soil of Maui has been a home to them all. This is not without reason for it was on the slopes of Haleakala that the first chapel in the islands was built. Following the arrival of the missionaries, membership in the Church grew and to give the Saints a house of the Lord to worship in so did the buildings increase in number. It is interesting to reflect upon the growth of the Church and how important these chapels became to the Saints of Maui. This illustration should help to familiarize the place names and locations of the chapels on Maui.



Former and Present Chapel Locations on Maui

Having been born and raised in Wailuku, that is where I will start. It is fitting that I should start with Wailuku Chapel as it was the hub of Church activities here upon Maui. Located on the corner of Vineyard and Muliwai streets, the Wailuku chapel was ideally situated for the Saints of Wailuku.

The Wailuku Chapel was the Maui District Headquarters and as such was the site of numerous Mission Conferences and social events. The Chapel held all activities for the Church from dances to stage plays. In addition to this, the social hall was also the site for many athletic events. From the Wailuku Branch, men were chosen to be the Branch Presidents and counselors for the Wai'ehu, Waihe'e, Waikapu, and Kihei branches. Although the Chapel no longer stands there, the social hall is still in use as an office for businesses of the area.

Not far from Wailuku is the village of Waikapu. The Church had another chapel here. Although it is not in use today, remnants of the building are still there on Waiko road. The Waikapu Branch had as a notable distinction the youngest Sunday School Superintendent in the Maui District; young Arthur Keawe Enos, Jr. who was then 14 years old. The Branch was established just prior to the Second World War. Waikapu Branch was closed in 1961 and consolidated with Kahului.

Still standing today the Wai'ehu Chapel on North Wai'ehu Beach Road is now being used as a home. It too was also organized just prior to World War II along with the Chapel in Waihe'e. The Waihe'e Chapel is gone now. Where it once stood, Kahekili Highway now runs into Kahakuloa Road. The last Branch President of the Wai'ehu and Waihe'e were Brothers Samuel Namau'u and James K. Mahi respectively.

The old Kahului Chapel was located on Kamehameha Avenue. In 1961, Kahului was merged with Wai'ehu, Waihe'e, and Kihei Branches to meet together in Kahului. In 1965, the Wailuku Branch joined with Kahului to form the Kahuwai Branch. The present Chapel was completed in 1969 as the Maui District Center and Kahuwai Chapel. The ground-breaking actually took place on January 29, 1957 with Elder Hugh B. Brown offering the dedicatory prayer. Along Elder Brown was the Hawaii Mission Presidency with D. Arthur Haycock as

President, and George Q. Cannon III the First Counselor. Construction for the building began in 1959 with Acel Richardson of Salt Lake City as the construction supervisor.

I am quite familiar with the Kihei Chapel as I was the last Branch President there. The building still stands on South Kihei road and is now used as a chapel for another denomination. We had numerous activities there with a lively membership. I prided myself in the members of that little Branch as they could always be called on to help. Among the most notable occurrences there was in 1959 where the front entrance had to be relocated. The young son of one our members--the Akina family--passed away and in order to bring the casket into the Chapel it had to be lifted at an angle and turned sideways. The former entrance was on the side of the Chapel's entry and the casket could not be brought straight into the building. In 1961, the Kihei Branch was closed and the members traveled to Kahului for church.

The original Lahaina Chapel is no longer standing but was formerly on Luakini Street. Traveling past the town of Lahaina was the Honokahua Chapel. The building is still standing on its location on Lower Honoapiilani Highway. In the Lahaina Ward presently at the age of 92 is Brother Manual Mathias who was once the Branch President.

On the northern coast of Maui were the chapels of Paia, Haiku, Pe'ahi, Nahiku and Keanae. The Chapel at Paia was on the Hana Highway at Kai Place. Brother Aloii Apo still living and now 88 years old was the former Branch President.

Past Paia was the Haiku Branch where the building still stands today. It is located in Haiku on Kokomo road. The Haiku Chapel was located on what had been an internment camp for AJA's during the Second World War. The building for the Chapel was once the Camp office.

Still in use today as a day-care center, the Pe'ahi Chapel was home for the five families that made up the Branch. Built prior to the War, the Pe'ahi Chapel was on Pe'ahi and Holokai roads. Shortly following the War, the Chapel was closed and its members moved to

join with Haiku. Brother Hanamaikai was the last Branch President for the Pe'ahi Chapel.

The Nahiku and Keanae chapels were located along Hana Highway. The Nahiku Chapel was up along Lower Nahiku road and Hana Highway. The Keanae Chapel also still standing is on Wailua road. Both it and the Keanae Chapel were closed before the Second World War. As for members of those Branches I am not sure. It is more than likely that those members were moved to the Hana Branch. Although it is not the original building, the Hana Chapel sits on its original site.

The Ulupalakua Chapel was closed around the 1930's. The building was then moved to Pulehu where it now stands as the mission home. As for Pulehu, it still stands and the last Branch President was Brother Edward Poepoe. The first congregation for the Church was organized on August 6, 1851 at Pulehu. On the same date the first baptism in Hawaii was also performed.

Following are the minutes of the informal meeting, together with the remarks of President David O. McKay, at Pulehu, Maui, Thursday, February 10, 1955, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Forty-four persons were present, among whom were President David O. McKay; Sister Emma Ray McKay; Elder Clifford E. Young, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve; President Franklin J. Murdock (Traveling Secretary to President McKay); Sister Miriam Young Farnsworth (daughter of Elder Young); President D. Arthur Haycock of the Hawaii Mission; Sister Maurine M. Haycock; President Lawrence Haneberg and President David I. Tew (Counselors in the Hawaii Mission Presidency); President Ruben D. Law ( of the Church College of Hawaii); President Benjamin L. Bowring ( of the Hawaiian Temple) and Sister Leone R. Bowring.

President McKay was standing on the former location of a pepper tree. A few feet away was the monument erected by the Hawaii Mission commemorating the first baptism and first branch of the Church in the Hawaiian Islands which was organized at this village on August 6, 1851. President McKay

related the following experience to those present. It was an account of an experience that took place in 1921.

President McKay relates that at Hugh J. Cannon on that visit in 1921 to Maui wanted to see Pulehu, the site where his father, George Q. Cannon and Chief Napela had spoken and converted nearly 100 people. At Pulehu and being filled with the spirit they formed a circle to offer prayer. Standing in that circle along with President McKay and Elder Hugh J. Cannon were David Keola Kailimai, E. Wesley Smith and Samuel Hurst.

I offered the prayer. We all had our eyes closed and it was a very inspirational gathering. At the conclusion of the prayer and as we started to walk away, Brother Keola Kailimai took Brother E. Wesley Smith to the side and began in Hawaiian to him very earnestly. As we walked along the rest of the us dropped back. They continued walking and very earnestly Brother Keola told in Hawaiian what he had seen during that prayer. They stopped right over there (pointing a short distance away) and Brother E. Wesley Smith said, "Brother McKay, do you know what Brother Kailimai has told me? I said, "no."

He said that while I was praying and we all had our eyes closed, he saw two men who he thought were Hugh J. Cannon and E. Wesley Smith step out of line in front of us and shake hands and he wondered why Brother Cannon and Brother Smith were shaking hands while we were praying. He open is eyes and there stood those two men still in line and with there eyes closed just as they had been. He quickly closed his eyes because he knew he had seen a vision.

Now Brother Hugh J. Cannon greatly resembled Brother George Q. Cannon, his father. I spoke during our trip on the resemblance he had with his father, Brother George Q. Cannon, and of course, E. Wesley Smith had the Smith attribute just as President Joseph Fielding Smith has it. Naturally, Brother Keola Kailimai would think that these two men were there. "President McKay said, "I think it was George Q. Cannon and

Joseph Fielding Smith, two former missionaries to Hawaii, whom that spiritual man saw."

We walked a few steps further and I said, "Brother Kailimai, I do not understand the significance of your vision, but I do know that the veil between us and those former missionaries was very thin. "Brother Hugh J. Cannon by my side, with tears rolling down his cheeks, said, Brother McKay, there was no veil."

There you have it. I am happy to be on this spot again.

The Lord is pleased with what the missionaries have done and I am grateful for the response of the Hawaiian people and other of these lovely islands. I am glad to see this lovely group of Elders and members here assembled for this truly is a sacred spot. May we who will now have increased responsibility from this moment on be true to the trust that the Lord has in us.

To the early Saints of Hawaii, the chapels on Maui have been a place to commune with the Lord. Although most of the buildings are not in use today, many of the families that made up those branches are still active. The Church has been a guiding force in the lives of these members and the chapels have played an integral part. These buildings have enriched the lives of many and have helped to establish the Church in the Islands.