...The Kihalani Branch, which is the Laupahoehoe area. You'll be passing
Laupahoehoe area as you go out to Kona today. And this whole new branch was made
up by these few branches. If you look Kahua Village, where the church had its beginning
here, in Honomu there was no chapel. And so the meetings were held in the homes of the
members. And so when missionaries or visiting authorities or mission leaders came to
Hawaii they would live in the homes of the different members and held meetings in the
homes of the different members. And so, for our district here that went from Kahua about
four miles back and then travel all the way around and came up here to Honomu and then
the next little town/village - it's not a town, just a little village, and then back Waimea and
then Hakalau. And those were the areas that they listed at that time.

My great grandfather, Samuel Kailimai, was a member of that Kahua branch
presidency and I learned that he also served in local mission. It doesn't say where.
Maybe just right in this area. And then on January 2, 1924, a chapel was built. And I
don't know if you can see this chapel well (showing picture). But before the plantations
all stopped working this whole area on to Hilo was just covered with cane fields. And so,
if you look at this you can see the chapel right in the middle. And this is just up the road
a way on the old road there, as Pres. Nishibashi mentioned, and about a mile and a half
back is where I lived.

And just about 1000 feet towards the Hilo side of the island is where this chapel
was built. And so you're looking at 24 members held meetings... in this chapel. Now
there were only two meetings held there: Sunday School at 10 o'clock in the morning and
they have what they call, General Meeting. I don't know if some of you old timers
remember that. Back in those days it was not called sacrament meeting. It was General
Meeting and when we held Sunday School. It was a small chapel. So the adults had their
classes in the chapel. The other classes were held outside of the chapel... took benches
out. One class was on one side of the chapel, one on the other. And if it rained, my Dad
had a little cottage down below the chapel where my great aunt lived. And so if it rained
the two classes that usually had theirs outside the building would go down to grand aunt's
place.

And then in the 1920's the church moved down into a little town down here. Not
into a chapel, but into a store, and the meetings were held there just for a short while. A
chapel was built and they moved into that chapel and we had very many good times
there. In August of 1957, the Kihalani branch merged into the Honomu branch. And later
the entire membership moved in to Hilo to the Kilauea branch where Bro. Borges talked
about that Kilauea ward there. In October 1977 the state presidency announced a
dependent branch of Kilauea, so Honomu branch became independent branch of Kilauea.
And our stake president now, John Sakamaki was at that time the president of that
dependent branch. And the membership including members living in the Pokaipu area
right on to Laupahoehoe and then later on the membership included people living in the
Ookala area which is past the Laupahoehoe area. Although we were a little branch we
took part in all of the activities that church had. We had drama and music, dancing, sports.

One of our favorite activities that we like to do was on Pioneer Days we looked forward to Pioneer outings, especially in the early years of the church because we went all the way from Punaluu... And we had a whole day picnicking there with the other branch. Now the mothers of the babies and little children were taken on cars. The rest of us had to walk until all of the children and the little children and the babies and the mothers were brought to the destination. Then the car would come back and pick us up. We had walked half way already, perhaps four miles we had to walk. But in those days walking was enjoyable. Now, you got to get in the car just to go down to the store like you don't walk anymore. But in those days we had to walk and we enjoyed it.

The branch at one time owned a bus. And the branch president at that time would go and pick the members up all the way from where he lived and bring them to church because not everyone had cars. And that was very good for the members that didn't have cars.

I'd like to make this very short because Brother Moffat, I got a call from Sister Delores, and she is waiting for you to get there. So I'm going to cut this short. You need to call her before you leave so she can be at the chapel when you get there.

We had many good times. Another thing we liked to do at that time is go all the way out to Kawaihae and spend two or three nights at campout. All the branches they all did that. And we go out there and go fishing, have games, compose songs - I know I belonged to a little group... and we had a composer... (sings a song).

Even though we were a little branch we took part as if we were a ward. And we had drama and music. The chapel that is up on the highway is a two story building and almost every other week we had dancing going on because a lot of the non-members enjoyed dancing because there was no dancing at all in our own village. And so when the LDS people put on a dance they all came out and that was one way we had them coming to MIA, through the dance program. I think Brother Moffat that's all I have. On January 27 we moved here for a dedication. The chapel was dedicated. And like every good story, the members of new chapel will enjoy this chapel happily ever after.

B.J. Lee: (Recommends a book written by Castle Murphy in which he mentions many nice things about Kailimai).

That Kailimai, that was my uncle. I married a Kailimai. Hawaiian style you're not supposed to marry a close relative. Supposedly we were first cousins. But this is how the story goes. His natural born father was a Keamo, Henry Keamo who was hanai'd, or Hawaiian Style adopted by my Uncle, David Keola Kailimai. And my aunt and uncle didn't have any children. So when Keamo's first child, David, was born she gave that child to my Uncle and Aunt who didn't have any children. And so he was named David Kauluwehi Kailimai. I don't know why the Jr. was added on because he wasn't junior because my uncle's name was David Keola Kailimai. And I don't know throughout the years what happened but we wanted to get married. My parents said, "No, that's your first cousin..." And Pres. Castle Murphy who was a very close missionary friend of my uncle and very close to our family and so one day when Pres. Murphy was here I said, Pres. Murphy we want to get married and you need to explain to my parents and he did.
Sister Abby Kailimai, Brother Rex Frandsen

Sister Margaret Loo       Sister Delores Ramos