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# Hawaii

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## Hawaiians occupy empty Makapuu house

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About 15 members and supporters of a Hawaiian family that staged a land-ownership protest outside Sea Life Park last summer moved into one of three abandoned houses on Makapuu Point yesterday afternoon.

The group, including a number of children, drove up the steep road to the 647-foot-high point and unloaded tables, chairs and other belongings into the house closest to the cliffs.

"This is not a protest," said Dennis Kanahale, 32, a member of the Kaawa family. "We have filed a deed, claimed this land and are just returning home."

Joe Maukele, another family member, said the group filed two deeds with the Bureau of Conveyances last week for land that stretches west from Makapuu to Hawaii Kai and north to include Waimanalo.

Earlier this year, 40 acres at Makapuu Point — including the area where the houses are — was declared surplus by the

Coast Guard and turned over to the state.

The Waihee administration has announced plans to turn the area into a public park and hiking area. A lighthouse on the cliffs remains under Coast Guard control.

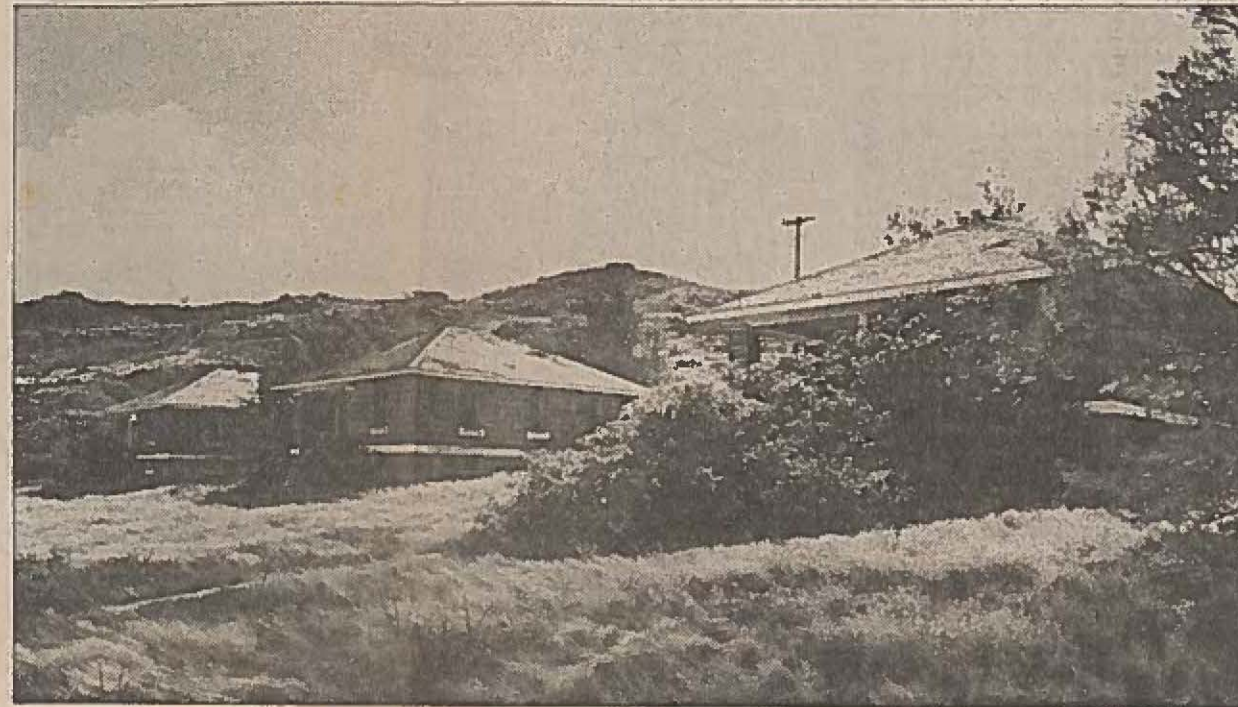
Kanahale said the land transfer by the Coast Guard was one reason the family took action. He said the family has rightful claims to much other land in the area, but that the Makapuu site is ideal for occupation.

Police and Coast Guard officials yesterday said the occupation posed no immediate problems and took no action against the family members.

"Nobody's here. This is the only parcel where we don't have confrontation," Kanahale said, adding the area has historical significance to Hawaiians as a place to gather medicinal plants such as alooe.

Last August the Kaawa family and supporters held a roadside protest outside Sea Life Park to publicize demands for return of land in the Makapuu-Waimanalo area to Hawaiians.

Maukele said the family,



which is from the Waimanalo area, plans to fix up and live in the three houses. The houses, surrounded by cactus and brush and heavily vandalized after years of disuse, command a striking view of the ocean south of Oahu.

The Coast Guard abandoned the houses in 1974 when an automated lighthouse was built to replace the old one and round-the-clock lighthouse operators were no longer needed.

Coast Guard Lt. Lyle Flecko said yesterday the Coast Guard makes only periodic trips to the lighthouse for maintenance.

"I don't really think (the occupation) is a problem at this

point," he said.

Kanahale said family members will keep the gate halfway up the mountain locked, as it was when they found it. He said they found the key to the lock.

The area will be called "Kaawa Estates," Kanahale said, and be open to any Hawaiians who wish to live there. Hikers will be allowed to pass by unbothered, he added.

A police spokesman said officers checked the entrance road at the foot of the mountain in the early afternoon after receiving a report of 20 people in the area but left after seeing no one.



Dennis Kanahale  
"Just returning home"

Members of the Kaawa family say they plan to fix up these houses at Makapuu Point and make the area available to native Hawaiians. Map below shows the location of the homes.

Advertiser photo by Bruce Asato

