

H-3: Protests may continue, many native Hawaiians say

FROM A-1

To many native Hawaiians, the \$1.3 billion, 16.1-mile project is a travesty that destroyed dozens of cultural sites in both Halawa and Kaneohe and forever compromised those that were saved. While nothing has been announced, they warn sporadic protests may arise like the one during the "Great Trans-Koolau Trek" on Mother's Day.

Haunani-Kay Trask, director of the Center for Hawaiian Studies at the University of Hawaii, said the H-3 highlights a long list of reminders that Hawaiians need a sovereign entity of equal legal standing with the U.S. government.

"Because struggle after struggle, we protest, we talk about sacred sites, we talk about the destruction of the land at whatever development that we're protesting will cause, and then we lose," she said.

Sites' significance disputed

Experts continue to disagree about the archaeological significance of the area and, even as wheels begin rolling on the freeway, final survey reports have not been released.

The major Halawa Valley sites in dispute are Hale O Papa and the Luakini heiau, or men's complex. Both are along an access road under the freeway, enclosed by wire fences with signs reserving the area for cultural use only.

Hale O Papa, as seen recently, resembles a small, serene nature park: Neat rows of ti leaves and small stones border a grass path leading to two worn picnic tables. In contrast, thick overgrowth at the Luakini heiau about a quarter mile away covers stone terraces which Hawaiians contend were part of a major heiau.

In May 1992, the state decided to realign the freeway at a cost of \$10 million to avoid both sites. The decision came after Barry Nakamura, then a Bishop Museum assistant anthropologist, publicly accused the museum of hiding their significance, sparking protest marches and vigils. He contended, and still insists, the heiaus were part of a vast religious complex ancient Hawaiians built in the valley.



BY KATHRYN BENDER, Star-Bulletin

The cliffside image of an owl overlooks the Hale O Papa heiau site in Halawa Valley. The H-3 was rerouted around the heiau.

Opening precedes land reports

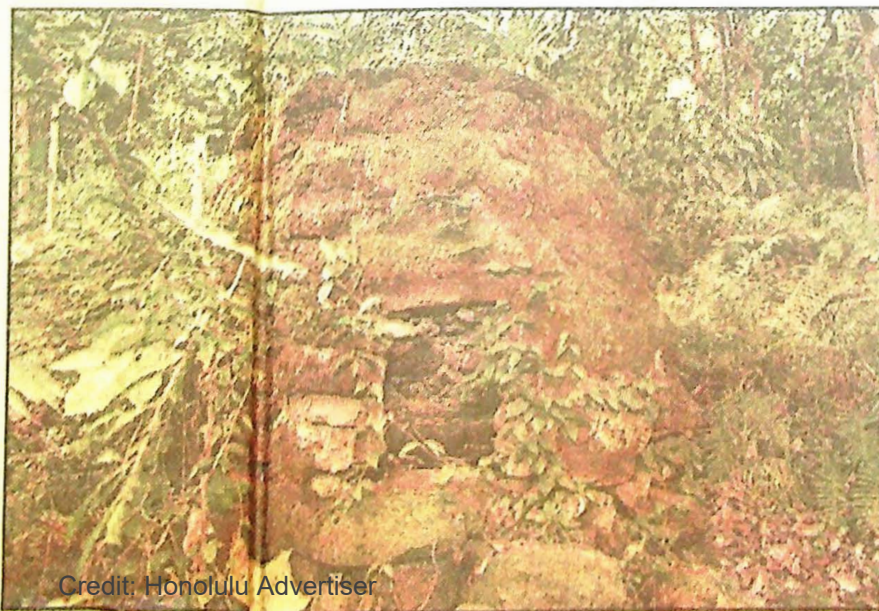
Most of the archaeological surveys aren't completed

BY PAT OMANDAM
Star-Bulletin

MOTORISTS curious about the physical impact the decades-old H-3 freeway project has had on Haiku and Halawa valleys are not alone.

Despite a total payout to Bishop Museum of \$22.3 million for contract archaeology, two-thirds of the H-3's final archaeological surveys won't be done until after the freeway opens Dec. 12, says Marilyn Kali, spokeswoman for the state Transportation Department.

So far, the museum has completed four final reports on H-3 and has eight more due. Kali said two of the eight reports are expected in the next six



Credit: Honolulu Advertiser

Late man's pleas for family bones went unheeded

BY PAT OMANDAM
Star-Bulletin

To some, an incident during the construction of the H-3 Freeway shows the wrath the gods have for those who tamper with the dead.

The story was told by Hekili Pai'aina, a spokesman for the Halawa Coalition, and published in a 1994 Star-Bulletin article. It continues to circulate in the native Hawaiian community.

Pai'aina said the state Transportation Department in 1990 desecrated ancient