

**Traditional Cultural Properties Report
Honouliuli Ahupua‘a
Honolulu Rail Transit Project
Technical Memorandum**

March 2012

**Prepared for:
Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation**



1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents findings of a Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) study for the Honouliuli ahupua‘a that crosses the Honolulu Rail Transit Project (the Project). The federal undertaking is the proposed 20-mile mostly elevated rail transit system that includes 21 stations and extends from East Kapolei through downtown to Ala Moana. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding supports the project. In June 2010, a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Section 4(f) Evaluation for the Honolulu Rail Transit Project (Project), was completed and approved. In January 2011 the Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act Final Programmatic Agreement (PA) was signed and the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Final EIS was issued.

The Programmatic Agreement contains fourteen stipulations that resulted from consultation among the FTA, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), the City and County of Honolulu, the United States Navy, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Native Hawaiian civic clubs and other organizations. Stipulation II – Traditional Cultural Properties – requires additional study be conducted to identify any previously unidentified TCPs within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) defined by FTA, in consultation with SHPD, for the corridor; meeting with the SHPD and consulting parties to discuss and identify potential TCPs; and completing eligibility and effects determinations and mitigation measures if appropriate – prior to start of construction.

The purpose of this study is to collect information for, and provide guidance to, the FTA and the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) so that they can make informed decisions regarding whether there are any previously unidentified TCPs found to be potentially National Register of Historic Places (National Register) eligible that might be affected by the Project, specifically the Ewa portion of the West Oahu Farrington Highway Guideway (WOFH) section of the project. Research and an oral interview have identified one sacred and storied place (wahi pana) outside of the Project APE in the ahupua‘a of Honouliuli, as further described below. Po‘ohilo, a traditional subdivision (ili) within the ahupua‘a, is a potential TCP.

TCPs

TCPs are “places of religious and cultural significance” (NHPA Section 101 and NHPA regulations, Section 106). NHPA guidance (Parker and King 1990:1) defines a TCP as a property “... that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that (a) are rooted in that community’s history, and (b) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community.” TCPs are integral to a community’s history and identity. The people who are best able to identify these places and their importance are the members of the community that understand their value. Any place identified as a TCP is important to the people who understand its value. Not all TCPs are National Register eligible, however, and determining that a place is a TCP does not in and of itself mean that it is National Register eligible. The property must still be evaluated and found to meet the conditions for listing. This TCP study presents information that is needed for HART, in consultation with the SHPD, to make these determinations, if applicable.

To conduct the TCP study, HART, through its general engineering contractor, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc. (PB) contracted with the SRI Foundation, a historic preservation consulting firm in Rio Rancho, New Mexico, with expertise in Section 106 compliance. The SRI Foundation hired Kumu Pono Associates LLC (Kumu Pono), a Hawaiian firm with expertise in Hawaiian language, history, and ethnography. SRI Foundation and Kumu Pono collected information through archival research and informant interviews to:

a) determine whether previously unidentified places of religious and cultural significance might be in or near the Project's APE; and, b) if such places did exist, whether they might be National Register eligible.

The documentation provided here is a summary of the TCP study research and HART's recommended determination for a property identified *in a portion of the West Oahu Farrington Highway (WOFH) Guideway Section located in the Honouliuli ahupua'a* (a common Hawaiian land sub-division). This documentation complies with *36 CFR 800.11(d) documentation standards for a finding of no historic properties affected*.

2.0 STUDY AREA

Figure 1 identifies the location of the Honouliuli ahupua'a in relationship to the entire WOFH section. Figure 2 provides an overview of the possible location of the Po'ohilo 'ili (a community or smaller land sub-division of an ahupua'a). This area was identified based on research of approximately 13 Land Commission Awards (LCA) that reference the Po'ohilo 'ili. The APE is indicated on these figures. This property is located outside of the APE for archeological resources (area disturbed by construction) for the Project.

3.0 COORDINATION

On February 16, 2011 HART held a meeting to kick-off consultation related to a study to determine the presence of previously unidentified TCPs within the APE, which includes cultural landscapes if present. This requirement was outlined in the PA under Stipulation II Traditional Cultural Properties. The meeting was attended by individuals representing various Hawaiian civic clubs and included individuals from the Oahu Island Burial Council (OIBC), the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and the National Park Service (NPS).

A second meeting was held on June 23, 2011 to summarize what was heard at the February meeting, provide an overview of the study approach and offer an additional opportunity to gather information on research to be conducted and individuals to contact.

4.0 HONOLIULI TCP STUDY

Based upon the information and direction gained from the SHPD and Consulting Parties consultation meetings, HART initiated a study of the project alignment to evaluate the potential for previously unidentified TCPs. The study area is the Honouliuli ahupua'a, which is the largest ahupua'a that crosses through the Project.

The focus of the HART TCP study is the Hawaiian perspective of the land and the relationship between the cultural and natural environments. Traditional Hawaiian culture views the land as being sacred. On the land there are sacred and storied places (wahi pana) that link mo'olelo (tradition) to a particular location. These locations have meaning and are important to native Hawaiian culture and identity. Wahi pana may be National Register eligible historic properties. To help evaluate the National Register eligibility of wahi pana found in or near the project area, the research team identified five themes to provide the necessary historic context. The themes are:

- Places where the gods and demigod walked the land
- Places of ceremonial importance, tribute sites, places associated with the dead and spirit world
- Notable events and individuals in Hawaiian history
- Places of traditional resource management
- Trails and boundary markers

These themes were applied to any wahi pana identified through archival research and oral interview that were located in or near the APE.

Methods

The study focused on following up on the information gathered from the two consultation meetings, research of native Hawaiian and English texts, interviews with identified native Hawaiian practitioners and extensive research into the history of place along the corridor. The following summarizes the key methods used to conduct research of the study area.

The study included five basic tasks:

1. Research in primary Hawaiian and English language records covering traditions, history of residency and land use, surveys, and descriptions of historic development and changes in the landscape.
2. Development of a series of annotated historic maps to assist in the identification of wahi pana.
3. Oral history interviews and consultation with kama‘aina (native residents) and others with knowledge of the land.
4. Spatial analysis and mapping of wahi pana.
5. Evaluation of wahi pana according to the National Register evaluation process.

The following methods were used in the research.

Ethnographic and Documentary Resources

The archival-documentary resources cited in this study were found in local and national repositories, including, but not limited to:

- The State of Hawaii
 - Archives
 - Bureau of Conveyances
 - Land Court
 - Survey Division
 - University of Hawaii Hamilton and Mookini Libraries
- The Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum
- The Hawaiian Historical Society
- The American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions (Houghton Library, Harvard; digitized in the collection of Kumu Pono)
- The Mission Houses Museum & Library
- The United States Geological Survey Library (Denver, Colorado), and
- National Archives

Oral History Program

Oral history interviews are another important part of this study. A general questionnaire was developed as an outline to help direct the oral history interviews. During the interviews, historic maps were also identified and made available for use.

TCP Mapping Methods

A component of this study included the analysis of historic maps to develop information on the relationship of the Project's rail alignment and associated facilities to the natural geographic features, traditional land uses, native tenants, and traditionally named localities. The Project's transit alignment and associated transit facilities were overlain on these historic maps.

Honouliuli Ahupua'a

Ahupua'a are traditional land divisions that are part of a system of land tenure that developed late in the prehistory of the Hawaiian islands (Kirch 2000). Within this system there are many land divisions starting with the moku (island), moku (subdivisions of the island), ahupua'a (subdivision of the moku), 'ili (subdivision of the ahupua'a), and on down to the individual plot or parcel of land. All of these divisions are part of this system and are important in cultural terms.

In one tradition, Honouliuli is named for a chief of the same name, who was the husband of Kapālama. They were the grandparents of Lepeamoa and Kauilani, two heroes in ancient tradition. Numerous claims are cited in the Māhele, although the awarded claims were generally in the "taro lands" section of Honouliuli (see Register Map No. 630) in a watered area makai (towards the shore) of the proposed rail corridor. In traditional times, the land area known as Pu'uloa was an 'ili of Honouliuli, though it was sold as a separate land during the time of the Māhele. All native tenant claims made for kuleana at Pu'uloa were given up by the claimants.

"Large terrace areas are shown on the U. S. Geological Survey map of Oahu (1917) bordering West Loch of Pearl Harbor, the indication being that these are still under cultivation. I am told that taro is still grown here. This is evidently what is referred to as 'Ewa taro lands.' Of the Honouliuli coral plains McAllister (44, site 146) says: '...It is probable that the holes and pits in the coral were formerly used by the Hawaiians. Frequently the soil on the floor of the larger pits was used for cultivation, and even today one comes upon bananas and Hawaiian sugar cane still growing in them.' (Handy 1940:82)

Findings

One wahi pana, Po'ohilo, has been identified within the ahupua'a of Honouliuli. Po'ohilo is an 'ili named for events following a battle in the Kīpapa-Waikakalaua region, in ca. 1400s., in which chiefs from Hawai'i and Maui invaded O'ahu during the reign of Mailikukahi. The forces met at Waikakalaua, and continued to the Kipapa Gulch. Mailikukahi prevailed, "and the head of Hilo was cut off and carried in triumph to Honouliuli, and stuck up at the place still called Poo-Hilo" (Fornander 1996). Po'o means "head," Po'o-hilo, the head of Hilo. This battle was significant not only because it was so fierce that Kipapa Gulch was said to have been paved with the bodies of the dead, it was the first time O'ahu chiefs defeated chiefs from Hawai'i and Maui. Information about this wahi pana was recovered by the TCP team from claims of the Māhele. In addition, Cultural Surveys Hawaii, a cultural resources firm hired to identify archaeological resources in the APE, reported on Po'ohilo saying it may be located on the high

ground above the golf course where the St. Francis West Hospital now stands. The hospital is located just to the east of the Po'ohilo 'ili parcels identified in Figure 2. This information was gathered from interviewing Mr. Shad Kane (CSH 2009), a kupuna (elder) knowledgeable about traditional Hawaiian culture. Concerns regarding line of sight or view shed access to the Po'ohilo location were not raised in any of the interviews conducted for the TCP study. Po'ohilo is identified under TCP historic context Theme 3: Notable events and individuals in Hawaiian history. It has integrity of location and may be National Register eligible under criteria A, for events (historic battle) and B, for historically important figures (Hilo) in Hawaiian history.

5.0 CONCLUSION

Archival research and oral interviews conducted for this study have identified a single wahi pana, Po'ohilo, in the ahupua'a of Honouliuli. It is the place where the head of an invading chief was displayed following a historically important battle on the Island of O'ahu. Po'ohilo is generally located towards the sea side (makai) and south of the Farrington Highway. Mapping reveals that Po'ohilo is outside the archaeological APE away from the proposed guideway. Po'ohilo, as identified in Figure 2, is a possible place of religious and cultural significance to the Native Hawaiian people and as such, a historic property potentially eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places.

However, the characteristics that make Po'ohilo a historic property, the connection between the story of Po'ohilo and its location, will not be affected by the construction and the property is outside of the archaeological Area of Potential Effects (APE) defined for the project by FTA. Ground disturbance will be confined to the immediate vicinity of the project guideway and the Po'ohilo area will not be affected by the Project. In accordance with 36 *CFR* 800.4(d), (1) FTA has determined that there is no historic property affected within the Honouliuli ahupua'a, and specifically, that the wahi pana of Po'ohilo will not be affected by the undertaking.

References

Cultural Surveys Hawai‘i,

2009 Addendum 01 to the Cultural Resources Technical Report, Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project. Prepared for the City and County of Honolulu. Kailua, Hawai‘i.

Fornander, Abraham (compiler)

1916 He Kaao no Pikoiaakaalala. Collection of Hawaiian Antiquities and Folk-lore. *Bernice P. Bishop Museum Memoirs*, Vol. IV.

Handy, E.S. Craighill

1940 The Hawaiian Planter: His Plants, Methods and Areas of Cultivation. B.P. Bishop Museum Bulletin 161. Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu

Kirch, Patrick Vinton

2000 *On the Road of the Winds: An Archaeological History of the Pacific Islands before European Contact*. University of California Press: Berkeley.

Parker, Patricia L., and Thomas F. King

1990 *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties*. National Register Bulletin 38. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service.

WOFH Area of Potential Effect and Ahupua'a

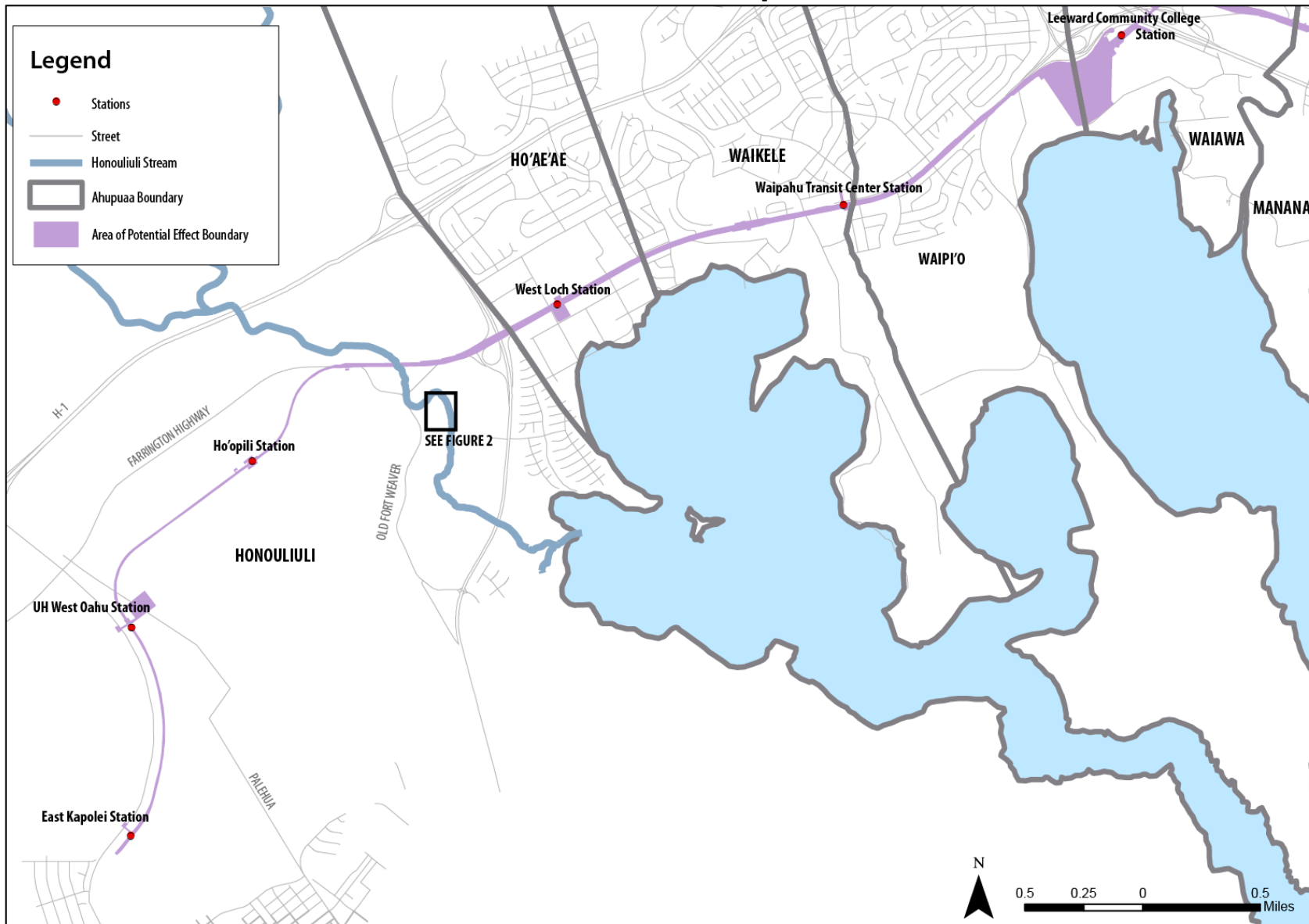


Figure 1 WOFH Area of Potential Effect and Ahupua'a

Poohilo Ili Traditional Cultural Properties and H RTP Area of Potential Effect

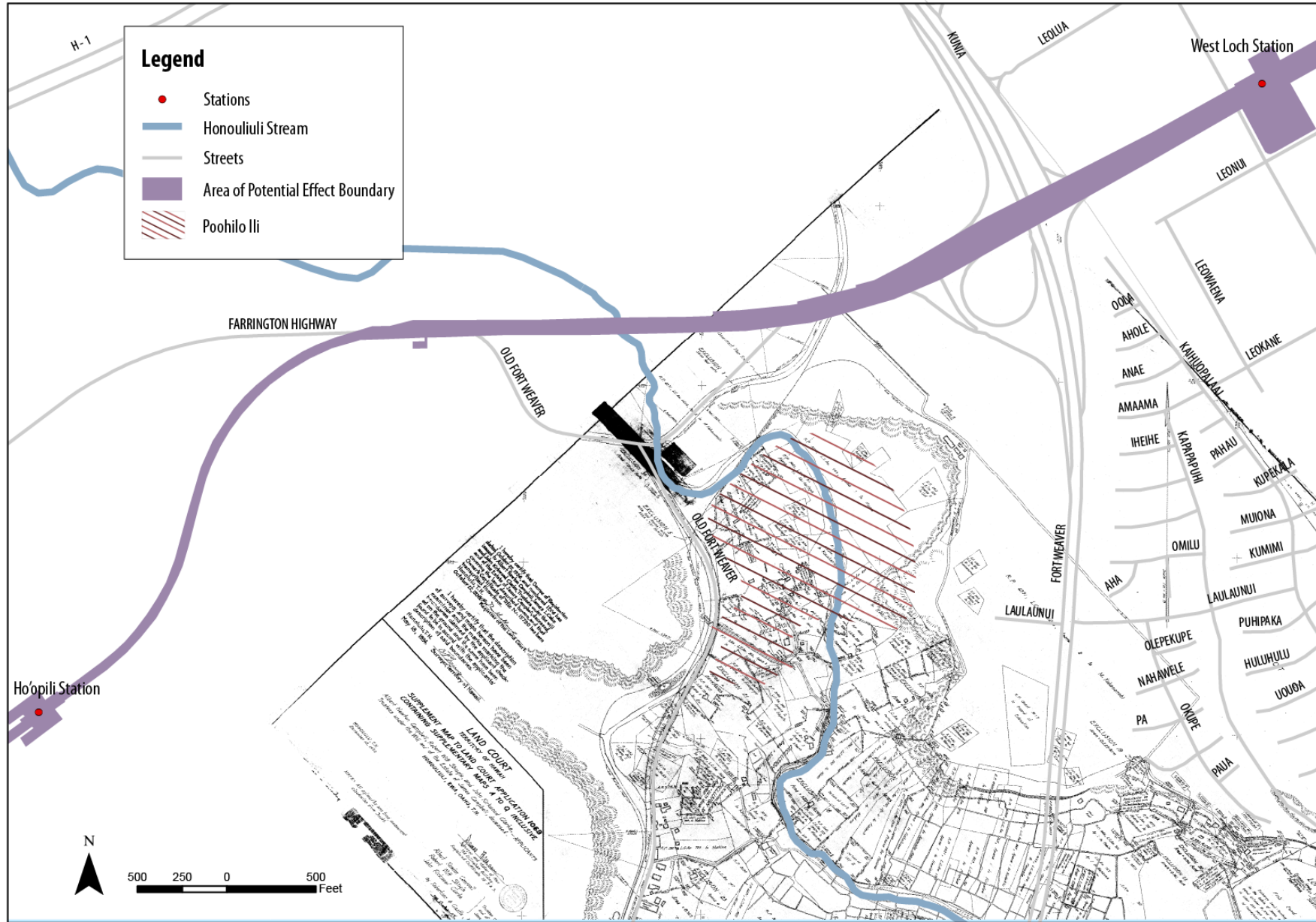


Figure 2 Po'ohilo 'ili and Area of Potential Effect