

KE KAHUA O KANEIOLOUMA

Building the Manokalanipo Wall -- Part I, Spring 2013

Submitted by Randy Wichman, Kaneiolouma Project Historian, to:
County of Kauai, Hui Malama O Kaneiolouma, and Billy Fields Masonry

Introduction



In this first installment we document phase I of the project and introduce our masons.

Billy Fields is a Hawaii Island mason contractor with 30 years of experience. He is the best builder of monumental stone architecture we've seen to date and we are pleased he agreed to do this project.

Kelly Gould (lead mason) has been with Billy Fields for many years and has now accumulated so much experience, he is respected as one of the best.

Below: Left to right, Kelly Gould, Kekoa Santos, Tyson Gomez, Timmy Santos, Keaka Flores on the completion of phase I.





Friday, February 22, 2013

This was the day papers were signed and commitments made for the Manokalanipo wall. Keaka Flores, Tyson Gomez, Timmy Santos and Kekoa Santos joined the Fields Masonry team that already included Kelly Gould (Lead Mason).

In the above photo are six Hui Malama O Kaneiolouma Board of Directors (Terrie Hayes is taking the photo). Left to right is Billy Kaohelauli'i, John Spaar, Kekoa Santos, Timmy Santos, Kane Turelde, Randy Wichman, Tyson Gomez, Billy Fields, Keaka Flores and Rupert Rowe.

Details were finalized on the wall construction and safety procedures were set in place. All the various maps available were consulted again (see Historic Overview and Master Plan) along with a very recent County Survey (January, 2013). The entire perimeter was then walked and logistic issues scheduled.

The photo below of Billy Fields was taken on April 8, 2013, after all preparations and protocols were made and the first stone was set in place. A defining moment in history for all those involved as we moved from the conceptual and into reality.





Friday, April 8

After several weeks of careful preparations the first stones are set in place.

Ho'owili Road was constructed in 1962 as part of the Poipu Road expansion. The wall now rests on this disturbed road bed leaving room for an internal buffer corridor of 10 to 20 feet before the cultural sites begin. This is ideal for movement with minimum impact.

The beginning of the wall will be left unfinished until we clear the brush around the edge of the fish pond. At this point we are far enough away and still on disturbed ground to be well with-in the sensitivity level necessary for this project. Once the fish pond is cleared of vegetation and the proximity of cultural sites determined, Fields Masonry will then finish this section.



Monday, April 11



Bottom: Details of the West facing wall (pedestrian and motorist view).



The wall is moving

Above: Kelly Gould surveys and discusses the days labor with the crew.

Side: Kelly, Keaka and Timmy listen in as Billy Fields explains the next days objectives.

Friday, April 12



William Aila, DLNR Chair

Above: Left to right, Pua Aiu, (DLNR State Historic Preservation Division Director), Canen Hookano (Kaneiolouma), Rupert Rowe, William Aila, (DLNR Chair), Susan Lebo (SHPD Deputy Director), Dave Wellman (Kaneiolouma), R. Wichman. Not Shown: Keao NeSmith (Kaneiolouma).

Below: Left, Pua Aiu on a site visit November, 2012 Right: Dave Wellman creating a 3D virtual map of Kaneiolouma in February, 2013.

Our intent was to update DLNR and SHPD with our perimeter wall and show the results of our 3D mapping project.



Sunday, April 14



Defining Cultural Transformation

An early view of the finished wall allows us to contemplate the nature of the transformation. In his vision for Kaneiolouma, Henry Kekahuna included the use of cement so long as it matched the color of the stone. A curious statement as it is the only exception in an otherwise “authentic Hawaiian atmosphere” he envisioned. Fields Masonry, aware of Kekahuna’s particular genius, took it a step further. Yes, there is a cement core and rebar, yet it is invisible.

We believe Henry Kekahuna would be pleased with this.



- Quality workmanship is creating a distinct character in which an intrinsic beauty is emerging.

- The height of the wall is proportionate to the surrounding landscape allowing a sense of security with unobstructed cultural view planes.

- The style is easily distinguishable from those found in the complex, yet complimentary.



Tuesday, April 16

The structural integrity of the top needed to be reinforced to last the centuries. Larger cap stones are carefully fitted and securely anchored in.

The technic is refined as the crew learns to work together. Motions become more precise and the eyes do most of the talking. As the wall grows, confidence begins to permeate in that their stone wall has beauty and is transforming the landscape in a cultural way.

Side: Timmy Santos and Tyson Gomez.



Wednesday, April 17, 2013



The Momentum is found

People are amazed to see this wall take shape so quickly, yet it took years of preparation in order to make this happen. Its a great feeling for all of us to see this wall emerge out of conception into reality, knowing now that all we have to do is cheer the crew on.

The hands are worth a closer look as they can tell you a lot about the tenderness necessary in handling stone. A great deal of care must go into selecting and fitting each pohaku. Intuition plays a big part as so much information is gathered by the hands. Over thinking is bad so relying on your sense of touch will get you through.

Above: Looking South Below: Keaka Flores

Thursday, April 18, 2013



The push is on to complete the first 120 feet and the excitement is getting contagious.

Left: Keaka Flores and Kelly Gould

Saturday, April 20



The first wall increment is now completed and preparations for phase II has already begun. The County is amazed at the progress and pleased how this wall enhances the approach to Poipu Beach Park. Consistently rated as one of America's top ten beaches, park integrity is always an important factor for us. The County does take pride and have been very supportive of this community effort on many different levels. From both the Administration and County Council to County surveyors and the County grounds crew, all have worked hard to make Ke Kahua O Kaneioulouma a cultural heritage destination we all can be proud of.





On this day, April 20th, 2013, a Hawaiian Pueo (owl) came by for a visit and caused quite a bit of wonderment.

News of this blessing traveled fast across the island. Cultural transformation can have many faces, and events like this can strengthen purpose.

To learn about the progress of Kaneioulouma and how to offer your Kokua (support), please visit Kaneioulouma.org.

