Ronald Kanekoa, son of William and Elizabeth Apo Kanekoa, was born in Waipio Valley on August 29, 1941, the sixth of eight children. He is half-Hawaiian and one-fourth each, Japanese and Chinese. When he was a baby, Ronald's family moved to Honolulu and then returned to Waipio when he was six. They lived in Waipio until he was 11, subsequently moving to Kukuihaele.

Ronald attended Kukuihaele (1st to 8th) and Honokaa schools (9th to 12th). He has held jobs as a construction worker, a driver, and a laborer. Since 1967 he has worked for Honokaa Sugar Company as a crane operator. For the past eight years he has been farming taro with his wife Cynthia. Married in 1966, the Kanekoas have three sons.

Ronald's hobbies include fishing, hunting, and swimming.
BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: CYNTHIA KANEKO, 31, drive-in counter help, taro farmer and housewife.

Cynthia Leialoha (Mock Chew) Kanekoa was born in Kukuihaele on March 1, 1947. She is the second of eight children of Samuel and Hazel Mock Chew. She is Chinese-Hawaiian-Japanese-Irish. Cynthia attended Kukuihaele School (1st to 8th) and Honokaa School (9th to 12th).

In 1966, Cynthia married Ronald Kanekoa. The Kanekoas live in Kukuihaele with their three sons, ages 11, 10, and 7.

At present, Cynthia works part-time at a fast food drive-in in Honokaa and with Ronald, farms taro in Waipio on a part-time basis. They are active members of Kukuihaele's New Jerusalem Church.
This is an interview with Cynthia and Ronald Kanekoa. Today is June 25, 1978. We're at the church in Kukuihaele.

Okay, we'll start with you Ronald, then. Can you tell us what your involvement with your father's taro was, as you were growing up [father is William Kanekoa].

Actually, I was brought up in Waipio. And we had to work our way, to live, by raising taro. And he the one taught us how to go about cleaning the patch, and we worked together with him. And when we came back from Honolulu [approx. age 6--1947], he was raising [taro in] Waipio. And after that, we just started from the bottom and we work our way up, till right now, how it is.

So when you were growing up, what were your jobs in his taro patch?

The little ones. We was little and we used to pick the grass. That was our job. And my mother, she used to pick shells [edible snails in the taro patch] for sell to the market and we used to help her. That's most of the things we used to do. And like sometime we have small order on luau leaves, then. We do everything we can to find, to earn money so that we can make a living in Waipio. Was really rough, though. We had a rough life.

Did you eat the taro too?

Yeah. We eat, we made our own poi. We had to cook the taro and pound our own poi. But, you know, at that time, at least they had...you know, we live by the land. We had food to.... like we go fishing. We had opae and oopu. That's, you know, that's how we live. All by the, mostly by the land. Because we didn't have much money.
VL: How did you feel about working in the taro patch when you were young?

Ronald: Well, we enjoy it. We really enjoy it because we was raised that way. That's our life, living in the valley. And till today, I feel the same way.

VL: When you were growing up, would you work just on weekends? When you helped your father, was that just on weekends?

Ronald: Well, we were going to school from Waipio. I mean, after school, we'd come down and we helped him. During the weekday, after school, we go maybe two, three hours in the taro patch.

VL: This is like everyday, then?

Ronald: Yeah, uh huh. Then weekends, we get the whole day working with him. That's how we learned how to work. And he was a hard working man, too, so we had the trade from him, actually, his trade.

VL: Was this like a family occasion, where all the children would help?

Ronald: Uh huh. Most of us, we worked together. Maybe some pulling weeds and some picking shells and the other one doing other things.

VL: And how many brothers and sisters do you have that would be helping?

Ronald: At that time, we had only three of us back here. Because the older ones was going to Kam School and some was going to Honolulu school, the older ones. And we had about three of us left back.

VL: As a young boy, didn't you feel like you would rather be fishing or swimming or something?

Ronald: Oh yeah. I really enjoy that. That's why, today, I always go to the beach. That's in me already.

VL: Yeah. But, I mean, didn't you feel like you'd rather be doing those things instead of working taro patch?

Ronald: Well, we had certain time to play and certain time to work. You know. After we do our job, then we go swimming. That's how it is. We know we have to do our job before we go swimming or whatever. Hiking or, you know.

VL: And Cynthia, what about your involvement with your father's taro [father is Samuel Mock Chew]?
Cynthia: Well, there wasn't too much because I did most of the housework at home. And my older sister and younger brothers used to go down and do all of the work. I would go down only on weekends, and help with weeding and pulling of the taro. So my part, growing up and working in the taro patch, wasn't too much.

VL: But what part you did work, how did you feel about that?

Cynthia: Well, in those days, that time was really work. I really didn't enjoy working. But, from that time to now, for me it's a pleasure.

VL: How about the Mock Chew poi shop, did you ever work in there?

Cynthia: No, I was too young. I remember the poi shop and all, and how they used to run the poi shop. We used to watch but I was too young to work in there.

VL: Okay. Did you two know each other as you were growing up here in Kukuihaele and Waipio?

Ronald: Well, I seen her by face. I mean, we never really get close to know each other. I mean, I know her just by looks.

Cynthia: I was just a small kid.

VL: Did you like Cynthia? I mean, as you were still going to school?

Ronald: No.

YY: Did you have eyes on her?

Ronald: I don't think so. Just happened one day.

Cynthia: Actually, we were neighbors. And my mother and his mother used to be really good friends. And I used to go up to his house all the time. But he was a big boy. And he used to just go in and out. I would see him, and stuff like that. Never thought that I would get married to him someday.

VL: So how did it happen that you two got married?

Cynthia: When I grew up. (Laughs)

Ronald: How we first met?

VL: Yeah.

Ronald: Well, I asked her for a date to take her out to the dance. And it just happened that way. I don't know if we fell in love or what, but. That's how it started.
VL: Okay. Then, you got married in 1966. So after you folks got married, where did you live?

Cynthia: His mother's house.

Ronald: My mother's house. It's Hind house before, Robert Hind. He lived in that house. And that's the house I was born and raised. Not born and raised, but raised. As a little boy. After we moved from Waipio.

VL: Now, did you have to pay rent on that house?

Ronald: Uh huh. We paid really cheap rent. Well, before, we paid cheaper because in those days the land wasn't valued that much. So we paid like...

Cynthia: Sixty-five dollars.

Ronald: ...just $65 a year.

VL: Wow.

Ronald: So that's, you know, it was enough for us to live by. That's really cheap. Then, when we got married, the rent went up to double the amount, I think.

Cynthia: No, it was $65. When we first moved in was $65 a year. Then the following year, it was $85 a year. And then, the third year, we moved out of there because my mother-in-law was coming home to stay in her own house. So we moved in my parents' house. From then on, it was $225 a year. For nine years, I think, we stayed there.

YY: Was this a rental house?

Cynthia: Uh huh. So we been paying $225 a year.

VL: But when you moved there, your parents weren't living in there?

Cynthia: No. They moved out and we moved in.

VL: So also, about that time, Ronald, you got a job with the Peace Corps [as a driver and laborer in Waipio Valley].

Ronald: Uh huh.

VL: How did you like that job?

Ronald: Well, that's the only job I had right then, so I was satisfied with it. I don't know if my wife wanted me to work over there because they had lot of things going on.
VL: What do you mean?

Ronald: Well, like us, living over here, we don't see too much Caucasian people. These Peace Corps. And we wasn't familiar with them, and lot of women involved with this so....(Laughs) That's maybe the reason.

VL: I see.

Ronald: She didn't care too much about it.

VL: So then, couple years after working with the Peace Corps, you got the job with the [Honokaa] sugar company. How did you get that job?

Ronald: First, I had a recommendation from the Peace Corps. And in those days, was pretty hard to get into the plantation, so I got one recommendation from the Peace Corps to give to the office. And they seems to like it. And my father-in-law was working at the plantation at that time, so I had a little pull for go in. That's how I got started. And I applied for any job that was available just to get in.

VL: So what was your first job there?

Ronald: My first job was as a planting crewman. Planting seeds. Then, afterwards I found a better job, you know, as I worked my way up. I went into irrigation, and then to the next thing. I found better things to do. And so it was easier for me to apply because I was inside already.

VL: And your job, now, is what?

Ronald: My job now is a crane operator. How I got to be a field crane operator, I had experience running a mill crane that's why. It was easy for me to get out in the field. Similar, same way of operating. And I'm satisfied, I like it. I really like it.

VL: I have also down that about eight years ago, 1970 or so, you folks sharecropped taro with Leslie Chang. What made you decide to start raising taro?

Ronald: Well, I always wanted to have a place of my own. At least to find out if I can do the job. I never did try raise my own, I always been working for somebody. Either my father or somebody else. That's why I tried it. My father asked me if I wanted a place. That's how we got involved. And I really enjoy it, doing the job as a farmer.

VL: That was in addition to your plantation job?
Ronald: Yeah. Just was a side job for me. During the weekend or my days off.

YY: So your father was sharecropping with Leslie Chang, and then he turned that land over to you folks?

Ronald: Uh huh. That portion. Then, we split it 70/30, I think, that time.

VL: How did you find sharecropping? How was that?

Ronald: I was satisfied with it. Because the part is that 70 is for us and actually, I do the hauling myself. And he [Chang] have to pay for the hauling; so he pays $1 a bag, I think, from Waipio to Kukuiaele. For his 30 percent of the share, he have to pay me for every bag I bring up for him. So it wasn't too bad. So I was satisfied.

VL: Did you go into it because also you needed more money?

Ronald: Well, in a way. In a way. Well, the job I had that time wasn't bringing enough to keep my family going. So if I could find some other ways to get money, I would, really. And I figured I could do the job like raising taro, and I tried it. And we was satisfied.

VL: Cynthia, did you work on that crop too?

Cynthia: Yeah, I helped him. We both worked together. We opened up the whole place. We worked from cleaning and planting and harvesting, together.

YY: Did you have any babies at this time?

Cynthia: Oh yeah, I had two. I had my first two, and they were babies. But I would leave them home with my parents, and I would go down and help him. And on good days, we could take them down, we would take them down with us. And just leave them on the bank or leave them in the truck. And if we just went down to haul, they would go with us.

VL: How long did you sharecrop?

Cynthia: Just for one crop.

VL: And then, after that, what kind of arrangements did you have for raising taro? Land arrangements.

Cynthia: That's after Leslie Chang?

VL: Yeah.
Cynthia: Then my father just gave us two patches just to work with, keep us going. And like he said, the money would go for the kids. It's not only for us. Because they think of our three kids too. So he gave us that, with love, and whatever we made on the land would be ours. So we opened up two and it's about three years now that those patches has been keeping us going. So come August, we'll harvest. And this will be our third harvest, from those patches of my father.

VL: And then, just last year, you got four acres of your own lease land.

Cynthia: Uh huh.

VL: Does that feel any different to you, to have your own lease land?

Ronald: As for me, I feel great. Because I know that's something of my own. Even though it's not really my land, although I can do anything I want. Nobody would tell me how to raise my taro, when to put in the water, or, you know. I can experience by myself, do what I like to do. That's the joy of it, having something like that. And really know that you have to work. If you won't work, you won't get anywhere. Because the grass come up in no time.

VL: Yeah, we were briefly talking about that the other night. The different methods of growing, that each of you were taught differently. Can you talk about that again?

Ronald: As for me, everybody have a certain way of planting, but I just plant the way I plant. The way I plant is, I have a string maybe two feet apart, and I just plant straight [the guideline string is placed two feet from the previous row]. Like some other people, they have different ways of planting. They may plant one near and one far, they use the footstep by measuring the plants. But I don't plant that way. But it grows.

VL: Now did you father teach you to plant one near, one far?

Ronald: I never did ask him. I was shame to ask him.

VL: You were ashamed to ask him how to raise taro?

Ronald: Uh huh, yeah. Because I supposed to know by myself just by watching him. He give me some hints about planting and how to irrigate the water. But as far as planting, I never did ask him how he plant his taro. But he seen me plant my taro and he didn't say anything so I think I'm doing okay.
VL: And now Cynthia, the way that your father taught you, or the way that you learned, is that different from....

Cynthia: No, I plant the way my husband plants. Because I never planted before. I only planted since we had our own. And to help him out, that's how I started planting. Because with my father, in those days, he was the only one would plant. Maybe he was particular in the way he plant, so only he was the one who planted. But to help him [Ronald] out, to get the job done faster, that's how I learned how to plant. So I plant the way he plants.

VL: And then you were saying your sister Moana, who has learned to plant from your dad, plants differently?

Cynthia: Yeah. Because Moana lives like for today. And so it has all changed from my father's days, where he used to do all the work by himself. But now, Moana, she's like his right hand man. And so she can do whatever he does, and she plants with him. So she plants the way he plants. They go by the footsteps. And my father's way of planting, I guess, is the way his father planted. So Moana is like the third generation.

YY: How about your other brothers? Jason....

Cynthia: Jason and Dennis, well, they learned from my father too. And they plant like him.

VL: Does your father come over to look at your patches and see that you planted differently from the way he plants?

Cynthia: No, he don't criticize.

Ronald: I think that I plant the modern way. I think they little old fashioned, that's why they don't want to change their ways of planting. They don't want to experiment. Even like now. They have sickness right now in Waipio, and I notice that the old folks, they little scared in doing things. Try to experiment something else. Like the mud maybe supposed to have fertilizer, they don't want to fertilize. They scared might spoil the whole crop. But if they set their self, or make a little experiment patch, then use that thing, maybe come out all right. But then, they don't follow the modern way of doing things. They go back to their father's time. It's good to experiment, something different. The University of Hawaii people came down and they tried it. Well, one of the new farmers down in Waipio has been working. He tried the new method of ways and it turned out okay. And look like now, the old folks trying to get involved with him. But they little holding back something, I don't know. Maybe they little afraid of doing that.
YY: Have you done any experimenting?

Ronald: Well, I have one patch to experiment pretty soon. And we going prepare it. My brother-in-law who's the, well he's...

Cynthia: Ag.

Ronald: ...yeah, he's with the agriculture, he's been with the agriculture and he going try to experiment.

YY: What will he do?

Ronald: He use all this fertilizer. What they been trying.

Cynthia: Maybe fumigate. Maybe....he was talking about trying to fumigate the land. Something like putting a black plastic over and injecting something. I guess that's one of the modern methods.

YY: So you have one patch that's ready to do this?

Cynthia: Uh huh.

Ronald: Well, you see, my brother-in-law has a book of raising taro now. And he has this book at home. And he showed it to my father-in-law and my father-in-law, maybe he doesn't want to follow that instruction of that book. But it was from this doctor in Kauai who had his degree in experiment things to get his master or something. But they traded books. Like my brother-in-law was experiment on this miracle rice at that time, couple years ago. So they traded book. And he has the proper way of raising taro. But these people were experiment in Kauai, Hanalei side I think it was. So he going try do it in my patch that the taro got all sick.

VL: Did that discourage you, the rot in your taro?

Ronald: Yeah. The patch that really rot, I raised three crops. And two of the crops all wasted. I got only, when the first patch that the time that I raised the taro, I got about 100 bags. Then when had spoiled, I got only maybe about 10 or 15 bags. So this year I tried it again and it total loss again. So I just left the patch like that and I didn't know what to do. I was afraid of just going back and planting and just waste a year of working inside there. And lots of these old farmers has the same problem too, but maybe now they trying to find something to cure this disease.

VL: Did you ever think of giving it up because the disease was so bad?
Ronald: If they can find one way to do fertilizer or to cure this sickness, then not too bad. But like you said, I just left the patch like that for couple months already. Maybe I figure might fertile again, the soil. So the oldtimers said, "Maybe if you just leave the patch like that and wait a while, then try doing so the mud can fertile." Actually, I'm afraid, though, of going back to the same thing and having the same problem. Maybe I should admit that. That's why I left that patch like that. (Laughs)

VL: How much time nowadays do you put into your taro patch?

Ronald: Oh, my day off and when I'm working on shift. Like I have that 3 to 11 [o'clock, p.m.] shift, so in the morning when I come home, about 7 o'clock in the morning, I go to Waipio and 11 o'clock come back. During the day. Then I go back work plantation 3 o'clock in the afternoon till 11 in the night. That's how I do it.

VL: How many days a week is this, that you do this?

Ronald: Oh, maybe three days a week. Then on my day off, I spend the time Waipio. If I have the time. Or if I have spend with my kids, I spend it with my kids. Taking them to the games or whatever.

VL: And Cynthia, do you go at the same time that Ronald goes?

Cynthia: Most time. Yeah, I go. If I have the time. But now that I'm working, it's kind of hard. We don't get the same days off. So I would have to go now, on the shift that he work. Like he said, if he work 3 to 11, he would go down in the morning and come back by lunchtime. And if I'm off on those days, then I'll be able to go. But other than that, yeah I go with him every chance I get.

VL: People have said that young people will not continue the taro farming because it's too much work and it's too dirty. How do you feel about that?

Cynthia: I don't think that's true. Because the taro must go on. You cannot leave 'em like that. It's been going on for years. And the oldtimers now, they started when they were young. So even if we're young, we're going to have to carry it on. So I don't think the young generation now will ever let taro die down. And especially the price that they paying for taro now. More young people will want to go into taro business. So long as our health is good, I think we'll continue to farm in Waipio.

VL: So you don't find that it's too dirty?
Cynthia: Oh, no. Not at all. Because lot of people, they don't believe that I go in the taro patch. They don't believe that I get dirty. But getting dirty like that is for a worthwhile purpose. I don't see anything wrong in going in the mud and getting all mud on your face and your whole body. Because you can always wash it off. And we usually wash off before we come home. Although our clothes are dirty, but we wash off the mud and come home. So with all the water down there, why should anybody feel like it's a dirty job.

Ronald: It's really a hard job, though. I have to admit it. If you never worked, been in a taro patch, it's a hard job. But to us, it's just like playing because it's so simple. We was raised working in the patch. It's nothing to us. We enjoy the work. And, like, if some people say that this young generation won't take over, maybe the ones that had been raised in Waipio, I don't think so. Maybe the new ones that come in.

Like just the other night, my father asked me if I wanted to take over his land. And he has acres and acres. But I don't want to get involved because he's with another family [by second wife]. He has his own family and he has his children too. He offered me, but I'm satisfied with the plantation. But if he really, maybe someday, if things get worse and he really needs me, maybe I can think it over.

YY: Ronald, are you the only one from the first family who's farming?

Ronald: Uh huh. Right now. Yes. Most of my brothers, well, I have two brothers in the Mainland and the rest is in Honolulu. They all have their own homes, so they don't plan to move back here. They made their home already, in Honolulu.

VL: So you would consider quitting the plantation someday?

Ronald: Well, I have to think about it. Because the taro price is really high. And if I can, I look at my father now, if I have his land, I know I can make it. Depend on the deal I have with him. But he has a beautiful land.

VL: So for now, taro is a supplement to your income?

Ronald: I think so.

VL: How necessary is it as a supplement to your income?

Cynthia: We just built and moved into a new home, so that money has to help us pay our house. Because what we were living on was all right, was fine. The plantation's income. But now we need
money to pay for our house, and that is the extra money we're going to get, the taro. The taro will have to pay for the house.

Ronald: Right now, taro is demand in the market. I mean, you can go to the store. Maybe they have the poi factory make the poi tonight, tomorrow they take it to the store. The same afternoon, there's no poi in the store. So if you the lucky one that raising taro and you have that crop to sell right there, you the one that making the money.

VL: Would you like to expand your acreage? Keeping it part-time but expand.

Ronald: For right now, I think I have enough. What my father give me right now. And I'm satisfied. If I were to quit the plantation, then I would expand. But the land that I have now can keep us going. I know that it can. It's pretty nice land. Because the place he gave me, there's no other taro patches around. It's just me over there. And I can do anything with the water, no problem with the water. And the main thing in raising taro is the water. If you don't have the water, it's pretty hard. The main ditch. I have a beautiful land up there.

VL: Is this the four acres?

Ronald: Uh huh.

VL: I thought that was [leased from] Kualii.

Cynthia: Uh huh.

VL: But your father....

Ronald: Yeah, he just turn it over to me. And it's with me and Kualii now. And he doesn't, he said as long as you keep the land nice, he doesn't care. And even on the percentage, we never even settle with the percentage yet. Like my father said, what he made, maybe if he made 400 bags, he doesn't give him the 30 percent now. Maybe only 10 percent from that. And that man [Kualii] satisfied just to pay the lease. Because somebody maintaining the place. He always come down and the place is nice. That's what he want to see. Because my father was the one that open up the land. It wasn't how it is today. That's why. He's a nice person, though, Kualii. So every time he come down and he see the land is nice, he doesn't care.

VL: How about buying land, would you folks like to buy taro land?

Ronald: Oh, if I had the money, I would really like to buy. That's the most wonderful place you can buy, is Waipio. But today,
the cost is so much, cannot afford to buy any piece in Waipio. Other people been buying, they been selling. Buying and selling, and the price is so high.

Cynthia: Yeah. I think the land value now is like $10,000 an acre. In Waipio.

Ronald: We, the small farmers, we don't have that kind money to buy. Only I can say, that they may own the land but I own the valley. Because I was born and raised in the valley.

YY: Do the boys go with you? Do they work taro patch?

Cynthia: Yeah. They can weed. One of 'em pulls. And he learned from his grandfather, my father. That's how he know how to work. He's only 11 years old now. But I think he'll grow up to be a hustler and be a big help to us. Then, my second one, he more so babysits. He watches the seven year old one. But so long they're around us, we know that they're safe and they're enjoying. Because their pleasure is to be in the valley and just running around, getting muddy and making trouble, and all that. But as far as we want them to work, they'll work.

Ronald: My kids don't care to go any place else for recreation. They just like to go to the valley. If I can take 'em every day, go down there, just go down there. Enjoy being down there. It's so easy to get them down there. Maybe later on, as they grow up, easier to get them in the taro patch.

VL: Is that the same for you too, that for your recreation....

Ronald: Oh yeah.

Cynthia: That's our only pleasure, going down to Waipio.

Ronald: That's all we like to do. Not unless we have to visit somebody else. Like going to Hilo visiting Cynthia's sister. That's the only time we go out. If not, we in the valley.

VL: Did you ever consider living elsewhere than Kukuihaele?

Cynthia: No. No way.

VL: Why, Cynthia?

Cynthia: I was born and raised in Kukuihaele. I love the place so much. And I said I would never move away from here. I went. But only for two months. I went to Honolulu, and I cried and I cried and I cried. I came home. And now I know, I'm going to live here for the rest of my life, because we have a home here now. A home that we're going to own.
VL: What about you Ronald?

Ronald: At first, I didn't care to live back here because I was living all this time. I went into the city and see the lights and I enjoy it. Just for that time, but. As you live down there, you doing the same things. You come home from work, just watch TV. Or you go nightclubbing and things like that. Like I was raised up in going hunting and fishing, and you cannot do all those things down there. Like hunting, especially. Back here, you can do anything. That's why, lot of these boys that I was raised up with always come home. Wherever they go, they always come home. Maybe every other year they come back. Even from the Mainland, they come back. Just to go up that mountain in Waipio. To hunt pigs or go to Waimanu. But I satisfied. I'm satisfied I'm in Kukuihaele. It's close to Waipio.

VL: How often do you see your parents and your sisters and brothers?

Cynthia: My parents, I see them practically every day. But for my two sisters and my two brothers, I see them mostly on Sundays. Because they live away, on a different part of the island. And we usually meet on Sundays after church. During church hour and after church, we spend the day together.

VL: Are there disadvantages to living so close to both of your parents?

Cynthia: Not for me. Because my parents come in handy because they can help me with my kids. Now that I'm working, more so. They babysit for me. Although my kids are old enough to watch themselves, but my parents are always concerned about them. And it's no problem for them to watch my kids. I don't have to beg or pay them money. It's a pleasure for them to watch my three boys. So for me, it's a good thing. And I know, if I would move away, I wouldn't get help the way my parents help me.

VL: How about, how often do you see your dad?

Ronald: Oh, just when he pass going to work. That's all. I mean, we talk story once in a while. But usually only when he going to work or I meet him in the valley.

VL: What do you think is the future of Waipio Valley?

Cynthia: I don't know about the future. Lots of new people are moving into the valley now. If it would be only the taro farmers, would be a good future. But new people are moving in. You don't know what they're going to do. Would be nice to have new business. Maybe they would hire other local people and
would have jobs for the generation after us. But to make it too commercial is not too good too. I can only say would be good if they would keep the taro farming.

VL: New business like what kind of business?

Cynthia: Like they have the prawns. So that's a good thing, because we already have prawns in the streams running loose. It's good to keep up the luau business, the shells.

VL: And how about things like restaurants down in the valley?

Cynthia: No. I don't think that would be a good idea.

Ronald: Well, you see, the restaurant that they had build in Waipio. I think wasn't for the farmer actually. Wasn't for the people that lives in Waipio. It was just like recreation for the one that is planning to put up there. It was going to be a private thing. They said that it was going to open up to the public, but it was going to be a private road now. In the bottom to the Ti House. And if they could help the farmers in a way to make things better in Waipio, it would be something else. But I don't think would benefit the farmer, that Ti House in Waipio.

VL: Do you think that young people should be encouraged to go into taro farming in Waipio?

Ronald: Well, the problem is hard to get taro land. Hard to get a lease from the oldtimers. Lot of oldtimers I know, who never plant taro for 10 years in a place, they don't give up the lease.

VL: Why are they hanging on to it?

Ronald: Because it's a nice place, it's a nice land. They just want that land. And yet, they don't think of the other people. But over here, we don't make a squawk because we all close together. They don't say a thing. If he doesn't want, that's up to him. Like, you go to the place, there's a nice land and then you cannot get the lease from them. They just don't want to give it up. I don't know why.

VL: And that's an obstacle to young people?

Ronald: Uh huh. For me, it was my problem. I had hard time to even to get from my father. At that time. But now, as he getting old, he's thinking of what to do with the land. So that's why maybe he offered the land. I think that's the only way I got the land from him. Because he's planning to retire some day and he looking forward, who can take over his business.
Like Cynthia's side is a different problem. The father, there's some kind understanding with each other. He just give it to the boys. Cynthia father gave the second son big piece of land in Waipio to take care. And he really enjoy it.

END OF INTERVIEW