

# ISLAND LIFE

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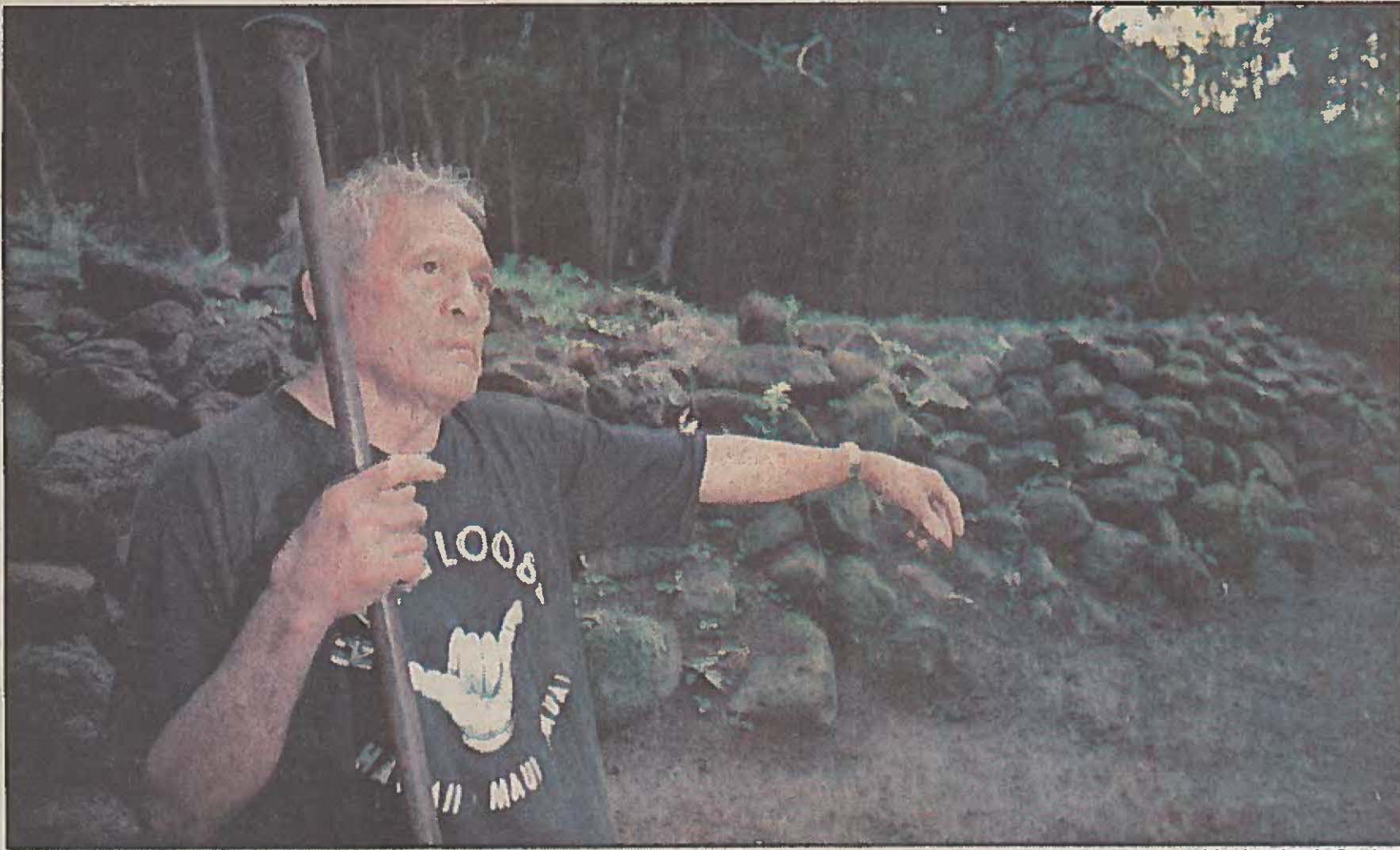
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Section Editor: Wanda Adams, 525-8034

*As a group of Hawaiians settles into Waimanalo, a new sense of community takes root*



Advertiser photo by Cory Lum

George Kamakahi, 73, drives from Waianae every day to help restore ancient taro patches in the valley behind Puuhonua O Waimanalo.

## REBIRTH of a NATION

**W**AIMANALO — It's happening under the wall of green cliffs back of Waimanalo, an impossible dream that's less impossible now than it was a year ago. They call it the "Hawaiian Nation."

This "nation" is more complicated than just a controversy over sovereignty (see history box, this page). Or the refusal of sovereignty activist Dennis "Bumpy" Kanahale to pay income tax because it's "the collection of an illegal debt."

What else is happening under the cliffs is an attempt to create a new way of life in Hawaii. This is not a return to ancient times. This is the catamaran compared to the outrigger canoe.

Chris Belknap and Paul Ponthieux are architects. Belknap said he wasn't satisfied with designing tourist hotels. He believes Hawaii's environment must be sustainable or it won't survive. But developers aren't much interested in his ideas because high density is more profitable.

The Hawaiian Nation is giving him and Ponthieux a chance to design a sustainable community.

"We believe in this concept," said Kanahale. "I've known Chris for three years. Until we got the land, I wasn't interested. Now it gets real."

Then there's Kiha Pimental, a general contractor in steel construction who isn't quite satisfied with the way Hawaii is going. He'd like to be part of something better.

There's also Uncle George Kamakahi, 73, from Waianae who drives all the way to Waimanalo every day to open old taro patches up the valley. Why? "For the people," he said.

And there's also Patty Maukele, a resource

lives under the cliffs and holds a class there every Tuesday night.

At the moment, there are fewer than 100 people living in shacks under the cliffs on 35 acres of land that members of this "Hawaiian Nation" claim as their own. They are there on agreement with the state.

How can 100 people create a new way of life?

The concept that Belknap envisions and that Ponthieux has drawn in three dimensions on his state-of-the-art computer is that of a self-sustaining community based on old Hawaiian concepts. See Waimanalo, Page D3

Stories by Bob Krauss,  
 Advertiser columnist



Advertiser photo by Cory Lum

This forest trail leads to the site inland where the new community will be located and farther on to old taro patches under restoration.



Advertiser photo by Richard Ambo

### Coming to Waimanalo

How did the Sovereign Nation State of Hawaii in Waimanalo come to be?  
**Spring, 1993** — Ohana Council members led by Dennis "Bumpy" Kanahale, who had been convicted in 1987 for illegally occupying the Makapuu lighthouse with other Hawaiian activists, set up camp on Kaipe Beach Park, next to Makapuu. Other Hawaiians joined the occupation, and the number of illegal campers grew to more than 100.  
**May 1994** — Occupants of the village were told to dismantle their growing village or face eviction. Water was shut off to the site in an effort to force the campers out.  
**June 1994** — An agreement with state Department of Land and Natural Resources helped along by state public safety officials lets the group relocate to Waimanalo. The