

Sam Kalilikane, Sr.

Tape No. 36-14b-1-98

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Sam Kalilikane, Sr. (SK)

Honolulu, Hawai'i

July 11, 1998

BY: Jeanne Johnston (JJ)

JJ: Okay. This is an interview with Sam Kalilikane, Sr. And we're doing the interview at his home, in Honolulu, Hawai'i, on the island of O'ahu. And the date is Saturday, July 11, 1998. The interviewer is Jeanne Johnston. [SK's wife, Pamela Kalilikane (PK), is also present.]

Okay. I believe we're recording now. Sam, let me ask you first of all when you were born. What was the date that you were born?

SK: February 21, 1938.

JJ: Okay, and where were you born?

SK: In 'Ōhi'a, Moloka'i. 'Ōhi'a, O-H-I-A.

JJ: What part of Moloka'i is that?

SK: On the east side of Moloka'i.

JJ: On the east end?

SK: Yeah.

JJ: Okay. And can you tell me a little bit about your family? What was your dad's name?

SK: My dad is John Kalilikane, Sr. John Ai Kalilikane, Sr.

JJ: And what was your mom's name?

SK: My mom is Margaret, Margaret E. Enoka. Enoka, E-N-O-K-A.

JJ: Where was your dad born?

SK: In Moloka'i.

JJ: He was from Moloka'i?

- SK: Yeah. Originally from Moloka'i. Born and raised in Moloka'i.
- JJ: What language did your dad speak when he was growing up?
- SK: Well, he used to speak Hawaiian, see, because my grandparents, they all speak Hawaiian so my father used to speak Hawaiian. Even to us, you know, he did it to us. Since in the same sense, then when the tidal wave happen, that's what I remember when he said to us, to my brother and I, about what was happening. So he said to us—spoke to us—in Hawaiian. *Kai mimiki* means tidal wave, but we didn't know what that meant. You know, we were just kids. So we were wondering what he was telling us about—he was talking about *kai mimiki* and I said, "Whoa what's going on? I don't know." (Chuckles) That was strange to me.
- JJ: Where were you living at that time?
- SK: We were living right across of Wavecrest [condominiums], you know Wavecrest? Right across there. Across from that used to be a cattle rancher, huh? We used to live right around in that area.
- JJ: And how many kids were there in your family?
- SK: Well, at that time, gee, I really don't know, man. What I would say, maybe about (pause) gee, I really can't understand how many people—I mean children—at that time. (Pause) Nineteen forty-six, eh, at least four or five us, yeah, yeah.
- JJ: Okay. So are you the oldest of the children?
- SK: No, no, I'm the third oldest. Living, I'm the second. Originally, I'm third because my brother in—the second brother died. But my oldest brother is in Moloka'i. You didn't get to see him?
- JJ: No, I didn't talk to him.
- SK: Well, he lives there. So, living, I'm the second.
- JJ: Okay. And then you were telling me about your mother. Was your mother Hawaiian also?
- SK: Yes. She was part Hawaiian and part German.
- JJ: Hawaiian and German.
- SK: Yeah.
- JJ: So she had a German parent?
- SK: The mother, my grandma was a German. Yeah. My grandfather was a pure Hawaiian.
- JJ: How did your grandmother get to Hawai'i, do you know?
- SK: I really don't know.
- PK: She was born in Kohala.
- SK: Oh, yeah, yeah, born in Kohala, that's right.

- PK: Her down the line was German.
- SK: Yeah. Yeah, that's right she born in Kohala.
- JJ: I see. Okay, and then do you know where your parents met? Did they meet on Moloka'i?
- SK: I guess so, I don't know. You know, I would think so, yeah? I really don't know though, you know what I mean? I guess so.
- JJ: Okay. And when you were growing up, what was it like, what was the island like then, or the area that you grew up in?
- SK: Well, it wasn't too good at that time. But you know, we just had to make, you know, as it was because there wasn't anything around there to do. But whatever we had, we done. Fishing and whatever, you know. But as far as living is concerned, oh boy, that was really. . . . Those days we have houses really ramshack. You know what I mean—old houses, eh? So we didn't live as good as people was living. Well, some people, next door to us, there were people with good houses. But us, we were—no. It was something else.
- JJ: Did you grow your own food in . . . ?
- SK: Well, yeah, we used to grow our own vegetables, like cabbage and whatever. Tomatoes and potatoes. 'Cause at that time was really hard to get. And that time, too, my father wasn't working because what he does, he only works during the summer. So after the summer is over then we got to go fishing. So that's what we—my father—we did for a living. My father fished most of the years. After he works about three months of the year, 'cause you know pineapple season only for the summer, yeah? So after that, you just got to go fish. That's how we make our living, on fishing. And we fish every day, every day.
- JJ: Do you fish now?
- SK: No I don't.
- JJ: You had enough fishing when you were young?
- SK: I had enough when I was growing up. And those days we used to fish a lot, where we'd go to school late every day. Every day we go to school, we always tardy. We never on time to school. Never.
- JJ: Where did you go to school? How far . . . ?
- SK: Kilohana School. Was right where from Wavecrest to the school, oh maybe about five-minutes walk. And we walked to school every day. And we go to school, and we don't—we cannot afford to eat school lunch. We have to come and have lunch at home. And sometimes we don't have lunch, we have to eat mangoes and whatever, you know, fruits that's all that's about it. As far as lunch we didn't school lunch money to eat school lunch. We come home every day from school just to have lunch. Whatever we can have. And that's it.
- JJ: What did you kids do for fun? What did you play when you were young?
- SK: We don't have no fun. I tell you that's the truth. If we not playing or whatever, we working or

fishing. That's it. That's all we do. We fish every day just to put food on the table. My dad, you know, that's why we cannot go nowhere. We cannot do anything. Our friends come to our house, we cannot go out nowhere. Just go down the street. And if we do go, you'll get it.

JJ: Was he a strict father?

SK: Oh, yeah, yeah, he was.

JJ: How about your mom, was she strict, too?

SK: No my mom was all right but my dad was, he was a strict man. So when you---before you go to school---when my mom and my dad used to work in the pineapple field, when they leave to go to work, first thing they give you---you know everybody has a chore to do. You gotta do your thing before you go to school or wherever you go. If you don't do your job before you go to school, and they come home, you going to get it. That's how it was. So hard living. Really hard. That's why I didn't like it. So when I grew up, I said to myself the minute I get a chance to move out, I'm gone.

JJ: So did you go to high school there on Moloka'i?

SK: Yeah, I graduated, yeah. I went to Kilohana [School], then I went to Baldwin High [School] on Maui, yeah. Baldwin and Lahainaluna [School], when I got thrown out of school.

JJ: Where did you stay when you were on Maui?

SK: My grandmother's family. My sister and I---my father beat me up one time, see. Beat up my sister and I, my oldest sister and myself. My father beat us up and then so I turned him in to the police. So the police---what you call the, I think so, I forget what was it. Well, anyway, they took us away from my parents. My sister and I, they took us away. Took us to Maui and put us with family that we have there. Put my sister and I live with my grandmother's family. Because they only want you to stay with the family. They don't want you to go stay outside somewhere else, eh? So that's why I was in Maui, living with some of the family. I lived there for about four years---three or four years. Then I decided. So when I got thrown out of school, I went work on the *aku* boat. You know, hooking *aku* and. . . .

JJ: Out of O'ahu, you did that?

SK: No, the boat, the *aku* boat was from Maui. Maui people. So I worked there.

JJ: That's hard work, isn't it?

SK: Oh, yeah.

JJ: Do you go out from just day trips, or . . . ?

SK: No they go out---you go out you stay out one whole week, two weeks sometimes.

JJ: How big were the boats?

SK: The boats was---oh, they were about seventy-, eighty-footers, yeah? They were big boats, sampans. So we used to go behind Kaho'olawe and all those place and, oh, way out to fish. So

then when I came back, you know, on a fishing trip, I said, I didn't want to fish no more so I said, "I'm going home." I call up my parents, that I'm coming home because I wanted to go home and I wanted to go back and finish up school. So from there I stayed out one year. I stayed out of school one year. Because I went and work on a *aku* boat and thinking, you know, I could make some money. I made some money but wasn't good enough. So I just wanted to go home and get my diploma and that's it. So that's what I did.

When I went back to---I came to Moloka'i, I stayed out one year. So I came back I was junior. I thought I was going to be a junior but when I went back to Moloka'i High School, they told me I had to repeat my sophomore year. So, you know, when I graduated high school, I was twenty years old. Nobody knew how old I was but. Only myself. I was twenty years old when I graduated in 1958.

JJ: So did you come over to O'ahu at that time?

SK: No, then what year—oh, yeah, when I graduated from high school, then I went into the army, down Schofield [Barracks]. I had training in Schofield. Then after that, I had six month's training in Schofield. Then after that when I got out of training, I went back to Moloka'i. I went back to Moloka'i and then I made up my mind already. When I left here I made up my mind that I was going to come back to Honolulu and live here. So when I went home I told my parents, I said, "I packing up. I'm going."

So my father said, "You know, Honolulu is a big town."

I said, "That's nothing, you know, you just get used to it." So I moved in Honolulu. And I stayed all over. I stayed in Waikiki, and Kina'u and all those places.

JJ: Waikiki was different in those days, wasn't it?

SK: Yeah, compared to what it is today. Yeah.

JJ: What was it like when you lived there?

SK: Was okay, I liked Waikiki because it's close to the beach and everything. I used to like that.

JJ: Did you like surfing?

SK: No, no. I learned how to surf but I don't have no time for surfing. I look at it this way: surfing is a waste of time. To me it is. But, you know, maybe to other people it's not. But I cannot see wasting my time on a surfboard all day long. You not accomplishing anything. Maybe you accomplish anything for, to, you know. But I'd rather go to work. I'd rather go to work. That's why I don't—I used to surf, you know. I was learning how to surf. I was beginning to know, but then I gave it up. I said, "Hey, hey, *bumbai* I'm going to be like all these surfers, bunch of bums." I didn't like that to happen, so. I said no. So I became a plumber. Yeah. I worked as a plumber for thirty. . . . How many years, honey [referring to PK], thirty-five? Thirty-five years. Yeah, so, and I . . .

JJ: When did you get married? How old were you when you got married?

SK: I don't know. Twenty-five? Eh? (PK laughs.)

- JJ: She knows.
- SK: How old we got married? Twenty-five, eh, was, yeah? Yeah.
- JJ: And how many children to you have?
- SK: I have four children, two girls, two boys.
- PK: He has four birth children, two *hānai* children.
- SK: Yeah, but they---that's my oldest sister's children. My oldest sister passed away so I took care of her—the two oldest ones.
- PK: He took care of all of them.
- SK: In fact, all of them. But the two that was closest to—the two oldest ones, I think, yeah?
- PK: The oldest and the youngest.
- SK: And the youngest, yeah. But.
- JJ: So you had a lot of kids around your whole life, didn't you?
- SK: Yeah, living with twenty of us. But not twenty of us because. . . .
- PK: By the time the younger ones came around, he was gone.
- SK: Yeah. And then I been a plumber, whatever.
- JJ: So what is your wife's name?
- SK: Pamela.
- JJ: Pamela?
- SK: Pamela Caroline Kalilikane.

(Laughter)

- JJ: And where was Pamela from? Where was she born?
- SK: She born Moloka'i. But I didn't meet her there. Oh, no, I meet her, yeah, yeah. I met her there. On---I don't know, I forget. You folks had what? Party? They had a party, some kind of party. I don't know. Then I met her there. At that time she was—how old you were?
- PK: Never mind. (Laughs) Too young.
- SK: Yeah. Then, what you call, she moved back. Well, she originally was living in Honolulu but she just went up for the weekend or whatever and had a party with her family. And then came back home. Then after I graduated from high school, I came back down here. And I start calling her up and she, you know.

- PK: We met in 1957. But he didn't---when he came to Honolulu, was '59. And then we met again.
- JJ: Is that when you were married?
- PK: Sixty-three.
- JJ: Married in '63.
- PK: Oh, no, we got married in '64.
- JJ: So tell me, let's go—we'll go back to the time just before the tidal wave. If you can just describe to me the area where you lived and what it kind of looked like. And how far from the beach you were and that sort of thing.
- SK: That's right next---right outside of Wavecrest, Wavecrest hotel. Not hotel—it's a condominium, I think, yeah? But anyway it was right outside of Wavecrest. But I remember that morning we were going out, the water were nice and flat.
- JJ: What time was that?
- SK: Well, I would think so maybe about six o'clock. I think. Or maybe earlier or later, you know, I cannot remember the time. But anyway when we went out—oh, was fine when we went out. When we got to where we supposed—we had laid our nets, eh?
- JJ: How many---who was with you?
- SK: My dad and my oldest brother, and myself. Just three of us. We had a twenty-, twenty-four footer flat-bottom boat. So we went out there to pick up the net. What we do, the nets that we lay is, today, is illegal. Illegal laying that kind of net, you know. But we make a big round, you know. And then we make the two wings and one center like and then all the fish go in and go right here. And then next morning we just go over here and close up that. And then all the rest we pick it all up. The rest of the nets we pick it all up.
- JJ: How far from shore did you lay the net?
- SK: We were out maybe I think, just about quarter mile.
- JJ: Is that Kalohi Channel, you were in?
- SK: No. . . .
- JJ: Is it the channel between Moloka'i and Lāna'i?
- SK: No, no, no. It's in east end. Pūko'o. Pūko'o Harbor. Anyway, we went out there and then we were going out was nice. And then all of a sudden when we got out there, what you call, the swell started to build up and we was thinking, hey, what was going on? The thing started rolling from outside. We look, oh, that's the first time we ever seen something like that. Just the water just rolling. And the thing is high. Maybe about, I think maybe about six or eight feet. Or maybe even more.
- JJ: Was it breaking?

- SK: No. The thing was just rolling. They rolling and breaking coming in yeah, so. . . .
- JJ: How far out was this?
- SK: Less than quarter mile out. So that thing started to roll all the way up to the shore. Then when the thing comes back out, the water rolls back out, the coral all dry. The coral all sticking out of the water. The water goes out again, you can see only coral sticking out.
- JJ: Were you still in the water or were you . . . ?
- SK: No, no, we were on the boat. That's why my father said, he started to talk Hawaiian to me, to us, and told us it's *kai mimiki*. I remember that he said *kai mimiki*. So, I was saying what he's talking about, you know I didn't know what he was talking about. Then he explained to us what he said. He said, "This is tidal wave." So what we did we threw anchor, anchored the boat. And then so when the waves go back out again and then she start beating up again and the thing start rolling again, coming back in. The thing done that for about—maybe for about—almost half an hour.
- JJ: So what happened to your boat while this was . . . ?
- SK: No, we threw anchor. So when you throw anchor, the boats—when the thing rolling you just go over the waves, and then the boat just swing back and forth. But we were supposed to jump in the water to get the net. But my father said not to jump in because, talk to us in Hawaiian, you know, so.
- JJ: Did you speak Hawaiian in those days, too?
- SK: Well, not when I was with my dad. But when I was living with my grandparents, my father's father, I used to speak only Hawaiian at that time. But if you ask me anything about Hawaiian today I don't know nothing. (Laughs) I cannot speak no Hawaiian.
- JJ: But that day, you knew what he was talking about when he spoke to you in Hawaiian?
- SK: Well, then he explained to us. So I asked him, "What is *kai mimiki*?" Then he explain to us, it's tidal wave. So he said not to jump in the water. So we just throw the anchor and stay on the boat and just wait until this thing finish. But the thing lasted for about half an hour. So the thing kept going out, coming in, you know, go out. And when the thing goes out, catch the other one and goes, start rolling, yeah? Real high. Oh, me, I would say maybe about ten feet high. And just coming in. Rolling, right up the shore. And wipe whatever is on the shore, like there was people over there that had boats on the shore, you know, dry dock, yeah? The water just picks it right out and sweeps it right out. Take it right out with the waves.
- JJ: When it came back out again, was there debris in the water? Did you see?
- SK: All kind, all kind. You see pigs inside the water going out, you know, the pig pen. There was one piggery kind farmer there. He had a whole lot of pigs, yeah? Oh, the tidal wave went right into his pigpens and when the tidal wave went back out, wiped out all his pigs. Not all, but most of them. This guy, Duvauchelle. Eddie Duvauchelle. Yeah, he was---he lives next to us, too, see. Then he was one of them that all the pigs that he had, got all wiped out. Right out in the ocean.
- JJ: Did you see them in the water, when they . . . ?

- SK: Well, no I didn't see them in the water, but he told us the story that most of his pigs lost, eh? But where we seen some on the beaches that's all dead, eh? So that was---I don't know if was only his or somebody else. There was a lot of people over there they raise their own pigs. That was really unreal.
- JJ: Did it make noise, when the water went in . . . ?
- SK: No, no, no. No, it doesn't make no noise. Just rolling, you just see the whole—the thing is long. Maybe the wave is maybe from here to over there, you know, how long. And the thing just rolling. Yeah. Oh, that's something. The first time I ever seen something like that. So I didn't know anything, eh?
- JJ: What kind of a day was it? Was it sunny that morning, and nice weather?
- SK: No, that was cloudy. Cloudy, yeah. And not only that, lot of people over there that owns fish ponds, you know man-made fish ponds, eh, there was plenty on Moloka'i. I think if you count that all, get about maybe about fifty of them. Fish ponds. Most of that fish ponds, you cannot see it today it's all level to the . . . All got wiped out. All of them. Most of them, rather. Some of them survived, you know. 'Cause like, where we lived, where we would fish, the channels are too close to the shore. Oh, when the thing start rolling, oh. . . . Some places the low side of the ocean goes way out. But where we lived, it only goes out maybe about less than quarter mile. And then over there is all deep ocean so that thing—you know when the waves start building up, oh, my goodness. So high. And it runs right up the shore. And when it goes up to the shore, you see everything coming back out. Whatever is there, is coming out.
- JJ: Did you see houses or anything, floating out?
- SK: No. There was one house, got lost. I think there was only one house from east end. I think it was Kai Davis. You know Kai Davis? You don't know? Yeah, I think it was Kai Davis. There was one house that was in the ocean going down. I didn't see it though, I didn't see it. But the people was the . . . You know I know the people too, eh? They said, their house got swept right out in the ocean. Say that thing was drifting in the ocean going down, but we didn't see it.
- JJ: So how did you know that it was over?
- SK: Well when the thing stopped rolling, eh? So we said, oh maybe. My father said it's okay to jump in the water. But you know, then I was too scared because I didn't want to jump in the water, maybe the thing start rolling and take me out, too. So, my brother and I we said no, we not going to jump in the water. But so we stayed on the boat for about half an hour, or so. But my father jumped in the water. My father did, so my father he was in there so we looked at him, well, we said we going to go in there too, you know what I mean? But I was kind of, you know, I had second thoughts about it. I said maybe this thing might come back again,. So that it is. That's what it was, rather.
- JJ: Then after, did you pick up the net?
- SK: Yes, we picked up all the nets. And, see, when we went out, see, our net was all surrounded. And we could see all the fish in the net. There was lot of fish in the net but we didn't get nothing because the tidal wave wiped it all out.

JJ: It did? How far down was the net?

SK: The net is down in the water maybe about six feet. Only six feet. Yeah. Then the water goes down low, then the thing go too, yeah. But when we went there, we closed the net up. We already closed the net because the net that we made had all the fish in it. So we closed it up. Then the thing started to roll, then we had to leave it go. Well, after that rolling of that, water washed everything. Everything gone.

JJ: But not the net—you got the net?

SK: The net was still there, yeah.

JJ: Was it damaged?

SK: Lot of damage. Total damage, Yeah. But I still remember that. I can never forget it. That's why people tell about the tidal wave. I said you better be prepared when you in one of them. We thought—not we thought, I thought—we wouldn't have made it. When I seen them big waves I said, oh my. That's the first time in my life I ever see waves like that. So big and long. Real long and that thing just rolling, rolling. Was spooky, man. Really. So my father said just stay on the boat, and I don't know. My father was—he was praying I guess, yeah. (Chuckles) He was praying in Hawaiian I think, I don't know.

JJ: So after you picked up your net then you went—did you go back in?

SK: Yeah, we picked up all the nets, whatever we could, because lot of them was all wrecked. Lot of them was wrecked but the ones that we really needed wasn't. Then we went back home, went back in with nothing.

JJ: What did it look like when you went back in?

SK: Well we looked on the shore, all the shore in the taro patches, right where we were, right where Wavecrest is—all that used to be taro patches before. Yeah. And when the tidal wave got in there, there was nothing because all the boulders that was from the fish ponds, the boulders, you know, that rocks, all went into that taro patch. Yeah, the taro patch was big. Was about, oh, maybe about a quarter acre or maybe even more bigger. Yeah. That was all raised taro, yeah? But after that tidal wave got in they rolled all that, I mean boulders all into that taro patch. So then the people gave up raising taros anymore because to get all that boulders out is hard time, yeah? Hard to get them and big ones, too. How big, you know, big kind of boulders, my goodness, I cannot believe it's in there. Yeah.

But, like I said I can never forget those days. You know I always remember when people talk about tidal waves. Well, you got to, you know, if you not in one tidal wave, where like us we were, than you don't know about tidal wave, because—I don't know about maybe like Hilo or whatever. I don't know how bad was it up there, too. But I would think so up there was bad, yeah? Because it's all the high ocean you know. Oh, the thing wipe out the whole Hilo town, yeah? You come from Hilo?

JJ: Yes. I was in Hilo then.

SK: Oh, yeah?

- JJ: Well, when you went back in was your house damaged at all?
- SK: No because our house not close to the ocean. It's maybe about, oh, maybe about five, six hundred yards away from the ocean. Yeah, but all the houses that were close to the ocean, they got wiped out.
- JJ: Did it affect your water supply or anything like that? Did you have catchment water or how did you get your water in those days?
- SK: We had water from the city and county.
- JJ: Did it affect the water?
- SK: No, no, no it didn't affect our water. As far as I can remember you know. Didn't affect the water.
- JJ: Were you on Moloka'i in 1960 when that wave happened?
- SK: Nineteen sixty? No, no, no. I wasn't there.
- JJ: Just the '46.
- SK: Yeah. Wait, 1960 one. I think I was there. I don't know if I was there. Was two tidal waves. . . .
- JJ: There's one in '57, I think, and one in '60.
- SK: Sixty?
- JJ: Yeah. So 1960 one is the one . . .
- SK: No, no, no cannot be.
- PK: Fifty-seven, maybe.
- SK: Fifty-seven, yeah. I know had--there was two.
- PK: 'Cause you were still in school.
- SK: Yeah. Yeah in the '57 one I didn't go. They had one in '57, I think some place yeah? I mean somewhere around there.
- JJ: In 1957, in Hālawā on Moloka'i, it was about eight feet, a little over eight feet?
- SK: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, because at that time, I wasn't—I was in Moloka'i but I was boarding at the dorm, yeah? Moloka'i High School. See, they have a dormitory. So for people like us, we come from the east end of Moloka'i, There's no transportation, see. If you live in the east end you got to go all the way up to Ho'olehua to go to school. No transportation, those days. They never used to have bus transportation. Like today, they have. So people on that end, that's the reason they don't go to school. Because no transportation. So I decided to go and live in the dormitory, yeah? So I'd be right across from the high school. So just walk to school. And while going to school, I worked in the farm. We milked all the cows. The school that used to sell all the milk to the school and to the customers on—whoever wants, eh? We had about hundred and fifty something cattles,

milking cows, yeah? And we used to do that every day. I used to do that. Milk the cows in the morning and in the evening. And in the morning we start at three o'clock in the morning to milk cows, yeah? Because we got to milk hundred-something cows, and then go to school. We get through at—we start at three o'clock in the morning and we get through at maybe just about 7:30. It depends on how much milk that the cows have, yeah? Some of the cows, they don't have too much milk. Well then we can milk 'em fast. But there's lot of cows that lot of milk, then we got to milk 'em two times, see. Most of them, especially the ones that just give birth, eh? They get a lot of milk, so. That's why we don't want when the cows get lot of milk because more job for us, eh? But I used to like that, you know what I mean? Well, just to kind so I can have money to go to school, eh? That's the only reason that I went to the dormitory and board there.

- JJ: In 1946 after the tidal wave, do you remember who did the cleanup? Did everybody just do their own?
- SK: Everybody just clean their own, yeah. Yes, yeah.
- JJ: You didn't get help from the county?
- SK: No, well, the county do just whatever they, you know the county areas. . . .
- JJ: And the roads were. . . .
- SK: Yeah, yeah, and the rivers and whatever. The county does that, eh? But they don't clean your yard. You clean your own.
- JJ: So there was a lot of—it took a long time. . . .
- SK: Oh, really, yeah because especially the people that on the east side of Moloka'i, more further to Hālawā, they are the people that hurting the most because all the rubbish. You know they have the—what, I don't know if you know them. Oh shucks, what you call that? Anyway, those trees that have the nuts that you can eat those nuts. What's that—*kamani*, eh? You know the *kamani* tree, well those makes a lot of rubbish, yeah? Those trees, when the tidal wave had broken all them, all those was inside of people's yards.
- JJ: Hālawā Valley had a lot of damage to it, too.
- SK: Well, Hālawā people, yeah, there. Because there was a lot of people living in Hālawā Valley. Due to the tidal wave, they all had to move out. Not really move out, but you know, it damaged a lot in there. So that's why little by little everybody moves out. Lot of them came to Honolulu.
- JJ: Did you continue fishing after that? Did your dad and you keep going out?
- SK: Well, we go. My father gave up fishing, oh, I cannot remember when. But we used to fish on our own. See, me and my brothers, eh? We all used to fish, see. But, I get all my brothers there, most of them all over there all fishermen now. How many you met up there?
- JJ: I just met your dad. He was the only one I did. And your sister-in-law.
- JK: Oh, you didn't meet. . . . Oh, that's my brother, eh? Yeah.
- PK: She's asking after the tidal wave.

SK: What?

PK: Did you folks continue fishing? Yeah, because you continued fishing after your father . . .

SK: Yeah, yeah, yeah, because that's our living that.

JJ: How did you feel about it though, when you were going out fishing after the tidal wave? You know, when you were on the boat? And you were just a

SK: Oh, no after the tidal wave, we figured that was done already. That never did bother us. Never. Never did. Never did bother me anyway, you know. But we kept fishing, my father kept fishing because that's all we live on fish. But if you ask anybody on Moloka'i, you ask anybody on Moloka'i about fishing, people, nobody on Moloka'i can beat us. Nobody. Nobody on Moloka'i can come close to us. There was a lot of fishermen on Moloka'i. And lot of people on Moloka'i, fishermans, they so jealous of us. Because we catch all the fish, most of the fish. Hundred percent over there we catch 'em all. And we catch 'em by the tons. I'm not bragging now, you know, I'm just telling you the story because, what do you call. And people over there wants to beat us. There's a lot of people there, you know, they want to get that school fish. They want to surround it. They want to catch it. They wait so many days. So my dad, my dad tell us, for not to be greedy. If they want to catch that school of fish, let them do it. They can get it, good for them. My father gives 'em one day. He don't get it that day, the next day we go there, even if they around there we just surround the fish right around. That's how we do it. I tell you, lot of people on Moloka'i they so jealous of us because we catch most of the fish on Moloka'i those days. Nobody could touch us. Nobody. I don't care who they are.

We surround 'em. The most tonnage, I tell you, we caught was. . . . I don't know if it was five or six tons. And we surrounded one time. And lot of, well, most of the other ones, weighed maybe two tons three tons, like that. But the biggest one was six or seven—I mean, five or six tons was it.

My father, at that time my father comes to Honolulu, makes all the arrangements with the markets over here. I don't know if you remember there was a market right—you know that right across of 'A'ala Park? [M] Otani [& Company] market? Well, my dad used to get *da kine* with him. And he used to buy all the fish that we catch. How many thousand pounds. He'll take everything. So what my father does, he comes to Honolulu, make all the arrangements with Mr. Otani, and he calls home back to us. What we do, we surround the fish. We surround 'em and then we—see like fish and game laws, you cannot hold the fish more than seven days. After seven days you gotta let that fish go. You cannot sell it. Regardless if you have it you have to get rid of it. Because if the fish and game catch you, oh, boy. You be in trouble. So we hold the fish only for six days. My father comes here, he makes all the arrangement so we, we go out because we have it in a net already, yeah? And what we do we just go out and scoop it all up. And we just, you know what about how many pounds that he need and then we box it and ice it and send it Honolulu. That's what we do. Every day. That's why I tell you when I was growing, when I was a fisherman, I said, you know, was so boring because every day I come home, I know what I gotta do already. I gotta go home and patch the net. If it's not patch the net, lay the net. Or if it's not lay the net, pick up the net, or whatever. And we fish, I tell you, seven days a week. You have no time for play, no nothing.

JJ: Yeah, it's very—fishing's hard work.

SK: Fishing is hard work. It is. And you know, my father makes us dive, we dive thirty, forty feet. And those days, you don't have no scuba. We dive, just free dive, and we go down thirty to forty feet. That's how deep we surround the fishes. Wherever they are we surround 'em that deep. And it's hard work, I telling you. It is hard work. But I enjoy it but you know what I mean. I said to myself, I will never be a fisherman.

(Laughter)

SK: I had too much fishing.

JJ: So you don't fish for recreation anymore?

SK: No.

PK: Don't even go to the beach.

SK: I don't even go to the beach.

JJ: Do you feel that the tidal wave affected your life in anyway? Did it make any changes?

SK: No, the tidal didn't affect me in anything. You know, I said it's just a one time thing. You know what I mean? And maybe that was the day that God had created that tidal wave, eh? Maybe another time is going to come again, I don't know. But it didn't affect me.

JJ: Would you have any advice for somebody that heard a tidal wave warning now, or knew a wave was coming?

SK: Oh, I don't know, I don't know (claps). I don't know.

PK: Head for the hills. (Chuckles)

SK: No, I don't think so. The tidal wave is not going to—going to affect little bit, but not all around. You know what I mean? Tidal wave just will go up. It's so high and that's it. That's about it, eh? Can go only so far in. After a while the thing just dies out, eh? I mean, so.

END OF INTERVIEW

**TSUNAMIS IN MAUI COUNTY:
Oral Histories**

**Center for Oral History
Social Science Research Institute
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

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