

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Vivian Leilani Vidinha Souza

"You know what they should do? They should change the law and make the people that get the money, buy property, build these magnificent houses, let them pay. Not us that born, raised on this island, live here forever, and we got to pay the high tax, too. Ho."

The youngest of eight children who survived childbirth, Vivian Leilani Vidinha Souza was born January 14, 1918 in Kōloa. Her father, Antone Vidinha, Sr., was Portuguese born in Mānā, Kaua'i and eventually became the sheriff of Kōloa. Her mother, Aloha'keau Hale Vidinha, was Hawaiian born on Ni'ihau. Vivian's brother, Antone "Kona" Vidinha, was a former mayor of Kaua'i.

Vivian, a lifelong resident of Kōloa and Po'ipū, completed the eighth grade at Kōloa School. In 1932, she began working at the Kaua'i Pineapple Company cannery in Lāwai. She worked there until the cannery closed its doors in 1965.

She lives in Po'ipū today with her husband, Louis Souza, whom Vivian married in 1937. They have three children.

Tape No. 15-48-1-87

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Vivian Leilani Vidinha Souza (VS)

July 15, 1987

Po'ipū, Kaua'i

BY: 'Iwalani Hodges (IH)

[NOTE: Also present at the interview was VS's husband, Louis Souza (LS).]

IH: This is an interview with Leilani Souza at her home in Po'ipū, Kaua'i on July 15, 1987. The interviewer is 'Iwalani Hodges.

Okay, let's start off by talking about your father's parents, your grandparents on your father's side. You said they were from Portugal?

VS: Yeah. But they came to Kaua'i to live. And they lived in Mānā. And my father [Antone Vidinha, Sr.] was born here.

IH: Do you know why your grandparents came here?

VS: Well . . .

LS: To work at the sugar plantation. They brought laborers from Portugal before.

VS: From Portugal.

LS: Contract laborers.

IH: Oh, so they were contract laborers when they came here?

LS: Yeah, just like the Japanese, and the Filipinos, and all that. Well, the Portuguese was one of the first. I think the Germans, then the Chinese, and then the Portuguese came in. [The Chinese were the first to arrive as immigrant laborers.] They came in way back, like way back in 1870s.

IH: Oh, so the Portuguese were one of the first ones to come to Kaua'i, then?

LS: After the Germans and Chinese, I think. [The Portuguese preceded the Germans.] Something like that. You better get it straight first, though. I think that's what it was. I think the Germans and

the Chinese were the first.

VS: Yeah, I think.

IH: So, did you know your grandparents at all?

VS: Oh, yeah.

IH: What do you remember about them?

VS: Well, they were quite old already, and they came to Kōloa, live with my dad, you know. Right in the back, had two houses. We were living in the front and they were right in the back. But they do talk more Portuguese, and, us, we talk more English, so hard to understand, you know.

IH: Oh, so they kept their language, then?

VS: Yeah.

IH: Oh, that's interesting. So when they came to live with you folks, they were already retired?

VS: Oh, yeah. When they came.

IH: Do you remember any stories they had to say about plantation work or anything?

VS: No, no. Like us, we was too young. We don't bother with that kind things.

(Laughter)

IH: Yeah, that's true. Okay, so then, you said your father was born in Mānā, too, then?

VS: Uh huh, yeah.

IH: Okay. And what was his name?

VS: Antone Vidinha, [Sr.].

IH: Was he raised in Mānā?

VS: Yeah. And went school.

IH: And he went school there? Uh huh. And then, when did he come to Kōloa?

VS: Gee, I don't know. I was born in Kōloa, I think.

IH: Oh, so was before you were born, then? [Before 1918.]

VS: Yeah, yeah.

IH: Okay. What about your mother?

VS: Well, my mother was from Ni'ihau, my grandparents. And then, they moved to Mānā, too. And she was born on this island. No, she was born in. . . .

IH: Ni'ihau?

VS: Ni'ihau, and raised on this island. So, I guess they became friends, eh, and then they got married. That's the way I figure.

IH: What's your mother's name?

VS: Aloha^hakeau Hale.

IH: Keauhale is the last name?

VS: Aloha^hakeau Hale.

LS: Aloha^hakeau is the first name. Hale is the second name. H-A-L-E.

VS: The last name.

IH: Oh, oh, oh, I see. Okay. So, what was your father doing in Kōloa? What kind of work was he doing there?

VS: Well, as long as I know, he was a policeman.

IH: Oh, he was a policeman in Kōloa?

VS: Yeah. He was the captain.

LS: Sheriff.

VS: Yeah, sheriff, not captain.

LS: Policemen had sheriff, before. They had sheriff. They didn't have captain . . .

VS: They didn't have lieutenants and all that.

LS: Just policeman. And then, he was a sheriff. He was the head of the Kōloa district.

IH: And where did you folks live?

VS: In Kōloa, by Waikomo Stream. As you know, you going by Kōloa School, you turn right, that back road, in the back there, way down. We used to live there.

IH: Was that part of the plantation down there?

VS: No. My father bought that place.

IH: I think you said that's back where the Costas used to live?

VS: Yeah, yeah.

IH: Were there a lot of Portuguese in that area?

VS: Oh, yeah.

IH: Why did they all buy in the same area? Do you know?

VS: No. I guess was cheap. So they bought all over there.

IH: Okay. So how many brothers and sisters did you have?

VS: I had only two brothers and. . . . Wait. Let me count, now. One, two, three, four, five, six. With myself, six.

IH: Oh, so you had six girls in the family and two boys?

VS: Yeah.

IH: Oh, that's a pretty big family.

LS: Was ten altogether, but couple died as babies.

VS: Yeah.

IH: And what number are you?

VS: The second youngest. My youngest [sister] died, childbirth.

IH: Oh, so out of the eight, you were the eighth?

VS: Yeah.

IH: Oh, wow.

VS: The rotten one.

(Laughter)

IH: That area where you lived, do they call that Waikomo? Was that Waikomo Stream?

VS: Yeah. Waikomo Stream. Used to be Waikomo Stream. The water, when rain heavy, had one big reservoir like--not reservoir but big trail that the water go down and come way, and then come down by the beach here.

IH: Oh, from Waikomo Stream?

VS: Yeah.

IH: Came all the way down here?

VS: Oh, yeah.

LS: That's the one come down here, this stream . . .

VS: That's the one. You see right by the road here by Kukui'ula Store, they cleaning? You know where all the water over there? Well, come all down there, too. That's why, when get flood like that, go all down that river, down there, and come straight down by the beach.

IH: But the water doesn't flow too high now days, does it?

VS: Well, so far, no. But years before, wow. Well, they been . . .

LS: You see, when they don't have enough rain, the reservoir can hold the water because the Waita is a big reservoir. It's over 400 acres and it holds all the water. But . . .

VS: If get plenty rain and there get plenty water, they cannot hold it all, they let 'em loose.

LS: Let it come down. . . .

VS: So come down to go to the beach and come by the harbor right here, Kōloa Landing. The water come out through there. Go all in the ocean.

IH: So before they built the reservoir, then it must have flooded a lot, then, huh?

LS: Oh, yeah, plenty.

VS: Well, must be.

IH: But they built that before your time.

VS: Oh, yeah.

IH: So did the stream flood when you were living there?

VS: Oh, yeah. Lot of water in the yard mostly and in the garage. And before--oh, I wonder if I can tell you--we didn't have flush toilets, was all outside, eh? That, all gone. Then we gotta cover 'em. Kids take rock, dirt, pile 'em all up, then dig new hole.

IH: Oh, the water would just wash everything away?

VS: No, put all grass and all kind junks inside. Broke down the little house, eh, that. So, we had to put all rocks, dirt, throw 'em all inside, fill 'em all up. Plug 'em down till real hard. Put it.

Phew, that was tired. But we had to do it.

IH: Then you have to just dig another one?

VS: Yeah.

IH: And did your house sit high then?

VS: Yeah, our house was high. They used to make 'em high, the bottom, with that four-by-fours underneath. They make the house high, then. Because you can crawl under the house.

IH: Yeah, they would have to because that was flood area, yeah?

VS: Yeah.

IH: How big was your yard? Was it very big?

VS: Ho. It was big. We had about two acres, I think, yeah?

LS: More than that.

VS: Three?

LS: With the other lot . . .

VS: Oh, yeah, the lot in the back. And my grandparents, all that back.

LS: Yeah. About five, six acres.

IH: Oh, that's pretty big.

LS: Yeah, big place.

IH: Oh, wow. I didn't realize the places were that big. Were all the places down there that big?

VS: Oh, yeah. The front was from Hamaku--not Hamaku. What his name now? The one in the front of ours on the left side?

LS: Going down?

VS: Yeah.

LS: Oh, that's the Old Man [Marion] Costa.

VS: Yeah, all that big.

LS: Yeah, that's all Costa. All back there. He get about what? Twenty, thirty acres, maybe more.

IH: Costas had twenty to thirty acres?

LS: Yeah, the old man. Yeah, yeah, plenty.

IH: Oh, wow. And who else lived in that area?

VS: I forget.

IH: Hamakus lived across the street, though, didn't they?

VS: Yeah.

IH: The Costas were a pretty well-known family. A lot of people talk about them.

LS: Oh, yeah. Old-timers.

IH: Yeah. One of the Costas used to make sweet bread?

LS: Yeah, that's the old lady.

IH: Yeah, Old Lady Costa.

LS: Mariana.

IH: Mariana?

LS: Mariana Costa, the old lady, yeah? Hey, nice sweet bread.

VS: Oh, yeah. And outside oven, you know.

IH: Did you folks have that, too? An outside oven?

VS: Yeah, yeah.

IH: Oh, you did? Oh. Did your mother make sweet bread?

VS: My grandparents.

IH: Oh, your grandparents. Oh, yeah, would be your grandparents.

VS: Yeah. And my mother, too.

IH: She learned to make from them?

VS: Yeah, she learned. But mostly it's my grandparents. Ho, and that bread go like firecrackers. Glup, gone. (Laughs)

IH: Do you remember how they made it?

VS: Oh, in this big tubs, eh? And they pound 'em. Then they cover. They let 'em rise. Then they put in little trays and let 'em rise. Then put charcoal and light. You know, that monkeypod wood? Put 'em inside, let 'em burn. And when inside the oven get really hot, they know the limit or whatever, then they put the bread inside, and

close the door in the front. Ho, when come out, boy. Two breads go like that.

(Laughter)

VS: Now, you cannot find those things.

IH: That oven, did they leave the wood inside when they cooking or they take 'em out?

LS: They take 'em all out.

VS: They take 'em all out. Because inside there the rocks . . .

IH: And the oven just stays the same heat?

VS: Yeah.

LS: Because they put all the wood inside to heat up all the rock, and the stone, and everything.

VS: That they put in.

LS: Just like imu. You've seen how they make imu. Heat up the stone. And that's what cooked the bread. The heat.

IH: But they take all that wood out?

VS: Oh, yeah.

LS: Oh, yeah, take 'em all out.

IH: And then they put the bread?

LS: And then, they scrape out all the ashes, too, you know. They get one scraper. Because some of them, they don't use the pan to bake the bread. They put 'em right on the oven, on the bottom of the oven floor. And they get a nice crust on them. Oh, yeah.

VS: His parents used to make, too.

IH: Oh, yeah?

LS: Oh, yeah. We have to go cut wood when we was small. Cut wood for the oven.

IH: Oh, you guys always use monkeypod?

LS: Monkeypod. We use plum, we use pine, any kind wood we could get.

IH: Did you live here in Kōloa, too?

VS: No. Kalāheo.

LS: Kalāheo.

IH: Oh, you lived up Kalāheo, yeah, that's right. Yeah, they were a lot of Portuguese up there, too, yeah?

LS: Oh, yeah. Full. Before, maybe you count the Japanese in one finger only. Very little. Filipinos had, because they used to work for Kaua'i Pine [Kaua'i Pineapple Company], see, plantation. But didn't have any Japanese up there when I was young. Very little. Mostly all Portuguese. They were the homesteaders. They the one cultivate the land for plant cane. They used to plant cane there.

VS: Cane and pineapple . . .

LS: Just like in the Big Island, Hawai'i, they get these farmers. You know, these individual planters [i.e., individual contractors]. They plant cane. Pineapple, too. My dad had pineapple.

IH: Okay, so could you just tell me the names of your brothers and sisters, you know, starting from the top? The oldest on down?

VS: Julia, and Anna. Oh, no. The first one is Ludwina. Then Julia. Then Anna. Then my brother Kona.

IH: What was the name?

VS: My brother Antone.

IH: Oh, Antone. What did you call him?

VS: Kona.

LS: Antone "Kona" Vidinha. Yeah, his name, yeah.

IH: Yeah, they nicknamed him "Kona"?

VS: Yeah.

IH: How come?

LS: I don't know.

VS: (Chuckles) I don't know.

IH: You don't know?

(Laughter)

IH: Okay. And then, after Antone?

VS: Mabel.

LS: Oh, wait. Maggie.

VS: Oh, excuse. Yeah, my sister. I was going say after Mabel, but Maggie is older, yeah. Maggie, Mabel, Lena. And Billy--William. We call him "Billy" for short.

LS: And?

VS: And me. Eight, nine. No.

IH: That's nine?

LS: Yeah, nine. One died. The youngest girl.

IH: Oh, just one died?

VS: Yeah. The baby.

IH: Okay. So did anyone else stay here in Kōloa besides you?

VS: All.

IH: Oh, you all stayed here?

VS: Only Ludwina, my oldest sister, well, she graduate high school and she was a teacher in Honolulu.

IH: But everybody else stayed here in Kōloa?

VS: All. Yeah.

IH: Oh, gee, that's pretty good.

VS: All Kaua'i.

IH: Okay, so what elementary school did you go to, then?

VS: Kōloa.

IH: Kōloa Elementary? And you folks walked to school?

VS: Yeah.

IH: Was close, yeah?

VS: Yeah. Oh, yeah. Walk everyplace. When we go work, we walk, too. At the [pineapple] cannery, Lāwa'i.

IH: Oh, yeah?

VS: No, go work, we had one truck. But after work, you gotta walk home.

IH: They don't drive you home?

VS: Because only eight hours, they work, the truck drivers. And we

work, sometimes, twelve hours. We come home at night. And you got to walk.

IH: From Lāwa'i?

VS: But now, I see everybody jogging. Before, we wild like hell, got to walk. (Laughs) But now, they jog all around.

(Laughter)

IH: Now they do it for fun, eh?

VS: Yeah.

IH: So, at what age did you start working at the [Kaua'i Pineapple] Cannery?

VS: When I was fourteen. Yeah.

IH: And why did you go to work?

VS: Make some extra money. Because the wages were so small. And we used to make ten cents an hour.

IH: Doing what?

VS: Trim the pineapple.

IH: Oh, in the cannery?

VS: Till I became a supervisor. You make seventy-five cents an hour.

IH: Oh, that's not bad.

VS: That's not bad? Stay all day, and got to clean the whole place when everybody go home?

IH: Oh, yeah?

VS: Oh. That's something else.

IH: And how old were you when you made supervisor?

VS: Chee, I no even remember.

IH: Were you still in school, though?

VS: No. I just went till eighth grade.

IH: Oh, so when you worked the cannery, you weren't going to school, then?

VS: No. Pau school already. Got to go work.

IH: So you didn't go to high school?

VS: No.

IH: Did any of your brothers and sisters go to high school?

VS: Yeah. Some went. Mostly all went. Only me.

IH: Is that because you didn't want to go?

VS: Because I wanted to work.

IH: Wanted to work? I think it seems like a lot of the girls here in Kōloa went to work at the cannery or the hospital or something. They didn't go to high school.

VS: No.

(Interview interrupted, then resumes.)

IH: So what do you remember about the school, then? Kōloa Elementary?

VS: Oh, was good. You sure got to study hard. You don't study, you got to stay in school, get homework. And if you don't do your work right, you know, your study, you got to pull weeds in the school yard. Yeah, you got to clean the yard up.

IH: So they were pretty strict, then?

VS: Yeah.

IH: Do you remember any of the teachers when you were going there?

VS: Mrs. [Hannah] Brandt, that's all I know. My eighth-grade teacher.

IH: Mrs. Brandt?

LS: How about Mrs. [Margaret] Blake, the old lady?

VS: Yeah. But she wasn't my teacher.

LS: Well, but some teachers there. Blake, Mrs. Blake. And who was Miss Sisson [i.e., Mrs. Maud Sisson]? Was the principal?

VS: Oh, that's the principal. Miss Sisson.

LS: Yeah, principal. I remember that little bit.

IH: Oh, she was the principal when you were going there?

VS: Yeah.

IH: Do you remember her? What she was like?

VS: She's a Haole?

IH: Oh, she was? Were most of the teachers in there Haoles?

VS: Well, half, you know. Mostly of them. Yeah, mostly of them was, get Haole blood.

IH: But later on changed, eh? I know there were some girls from Kōloa that went to . . .

VS: Yeah. High school and . . .

IH: . . . Normal School, and then came back to teach, huh?

LS: Yeah, Normal School, yeah.

IH: Okay. Before you started working in the cannery, what kind of things did you do like in the neighborhood? Like activities or maybe going to the beach? Just kind of things you used to do, everyday kind of things.

VS: Stay home and do the laundry, clean house. I mean, my sisters tell me what and what to do. Everybody get their own shares, what and what to do. Clean yard, pull weeds, water plants.

IH: Oh, so you folks had chores every day?

(Interview interrupted, then resumes.)

IH: And that's after school, you had chores or was that before school?

VS: After, too. After school. You got to do your chores. All, my sisters and my brothers had chores, what and what. It's all written down. My father put down because he's hardly home. And we got to check the list that is hanging up. What I have to do, what they have to do. When we go to the store, used to be Chang Fook Store, right in Kōloa. And one day, I go buy loaf bread or whatever. The following day is my brother, Billy or Lena. Everyday is changed.

IH: And when you went to the store, was that on a charge system?

VS: Yeah. All charge. All we have to do is sign our name.

IH: So, Chang Fook Store was like a general store?

VS: Yeah. They had everything inside there. [It was a bakery and general store.]

IH: Is that the store most of the people went to?

VS: Oh, yeah.

IH: And where was that located?

VS: Right in Kōloa where they get--you know where they get that bar?
You know, the bar right in Kōloa Town?

IH: I'm not sure.

VS: You know where they park the cars? When you go up, they park the cars all on the left side. And where they get the bar, that kinda big store right there. All that. Right that portion. Right inside there was Chang Fook.

IH: I'm not really sure where that is. Is that on the same road like Sueoka's?

VS: Yeah, the same side.

IH: But on the other end?

VS: Yeah. And Sueoka was there, too.

IH: Oh, it was? And what was that before?

VS: Sueoka.

IH: It was always a grocery store?

VS: The family. All the family. The parents.

IH: But that was a grocery store, too?

VS: Yeah. But small. Wasn't this big. The stores were all small stores. Only . . .

IH: But Chang Fook was the biggest?

VS: The biggest. [VS is mistaken on this point.]

IH: Oh, so most of the people went there, then?

VS: Yeah.

IH: What other stores had right along there that you remember?

VS: Kōloa Store was where get Big Save. Had one store there, too. But mostly everybody buy from Chang Fook. Because everything is homemade cooked, too. Bread, cakes, you name it. You can talk to the son. The son living down here.

IH: Chang Fook?

VS: Yeah.

IH: Oh, yeah? What is his name?

VS: I don't know his first name, but Chang Fook. You go right by the bridge right here when you go down Sheraton. And the house on the left side. You know [former Kaua'i Mayor Eduardo] Malapit? Where Malapit living?

IH: I'm not sure.

VS: Well, anyhow, on the right, there's no houses. And his house get one fishing boat on the side of the house. He live over there.

IH: Chang Fook? That's his last name, Chang Fook? [Chang Dan Fook]

VS: Yeah. That's the son. The parents, ho, they sure cook good, boy.

IH: So it's the parents who owned the place before?

VS: Yeah.

IH: And then what happened to the store? It closed down?

VS: I don't know. The parents closed. Maybe somebody wanted more money, give more money, or whatever. The sons no could upkeep, I think.

IH: So when did that store close?

VS: I really don't know. It was quite long.

IH: Was long time ago?

VS: Yeah. Long time. Like us, we don't bother think about those things.

IH: Yeah, especially dates. Most people don't remember dates. Okay, did they have any type of laundry or anything like that in town? Laundry or . . .

VS: No, everybody do their own laundry at home. And get one big rock and you scrub your clothes.

IH: Didn't have the washboard or something? (LS shakes her head.) No?

VS: Too bad. I had one down here on the other house. I had 'em for souvenir in the back. Ho, shape just like one, you know, come like that.

IH: Shaped square, you mean?

VS: Yeah. Beautiful one. Oh, cannot find it. I used to scrub clothes on that. And boil hot water outside with wood.

IH: Oh, to wash the clothes?

VS: Yeah. Especially when the clothes real dirty, you like put 'em in

the hot water, eh? Because no had washing (chuckles) machine, those days, so.

IH: And was your cooking done mostly outside, too, or was that . . .

VS: No. In the house. Kerosene stove.

IH: Only that oven, the bread oven, was outside?

VS: Yeah.

IH: Did you use the oven for anything else besides the sweet bread?

VS: No. We hardly make cake. We go buy from Chang Fook. (Laughs) Because, those days, was cheap. But to us, was expensive. So we couldn't buy it all the time.

IH: Okay. What do you remember about your father? Your father must have been pretty prominent in the town?

VS: Oh, yeah. He was sharp. You know, busy being a policeman, eh? Really busy. He come home late, too. He like all his policemen be just it. And get work in time, and come in in time. You know, after work and get everything done.

IH: So, he was strict, then?

VS: Yeah. But they all liked him. I mean, not that, that strict. But he tell them what's the truth and all that. Anybody make trouble, bring 'em to the police station. And we question them. And bring the parents. And they talk to 'em, make them understand. You no hear no more trouble. It's only da kine, you know, when they fight, then they lock 'em up. And when they drive, he tell his police officers, you know, they go patrol on the road. And catch anybody on the road about midnight, stop 'em. Take the keys, put the name, your name, and tell 'em come to the police station, get their keys, and they can go pick up their car.

IH: Why was that?

VS: Because he no like accidents.

IH: So, after twelve o'clock, you can't be driving?

VS: You can, but it's dangerous because the roads were so narrow. And worse, when you drunk. Take the keys. They sleep on their car, but they cannot drive. Worse for the drunk ones, you know. And then, they put their name on their car. When they wake up in the morning, they see, they go police station, they get their keys, and they go home. And if they too drunk down this road, he tell 'em take 'em to the hotel right here. Used to be Spouting Horn Inn, a hotel here. They go there and they pay dollar a night.

IH: Oh, that's the one right across the street over here?

VS: Yeah, right here.

IH: And who did you say were the owners there?

LS: Kula.

VS: Kula.

LS: James Kula.

VS: James Kula. Yeah, used to be pretty place. Yeah, really nice.

IH: Yeah? What was that like? That hotel?

VS: Oh, had two story.

LS: House.

VS: House. Big house. And way on the top had a deck, too. When you get parties, you can sit up there had tables--you can see all the ocean. Was really nice. And had four bedrooms. One, two, three, four--six. Four on the top and two on the bottom.

IH: So they used to rent the rooms to people as a hotel?

VS: Yeah. But mostly for drunk guys. (Chuckles) Because the police take 'em over there. And they gotta pay dollar as punishment. (Laughs)

IH: I know before they had the cars, the policemen used to ride around on horses. Do you remember that?

VS: Yeah. My father used to.

IH: Did he keep his horse at home?

VS: Yeah. And we used to feed the horse and bathe the horse. The horse's name was Violet. But that horse listen, just like a human being. The only thing it cannot do was talk. Yeah. Really beautiful horse.

IH: Did you have any other animals in the yard?

VS: No. Just that one. And a dog, of course.

IH: You folks didn't raise pig or chickens or anything?

VS: No.

IH: But lot of people in the area did . . .

VS: They raise, they raise. Because had plenty wild chickens, so we catch 'em and we cook 'em. (Chuckles) Go all around. We never get no cage for put chickens inside. Ho, the chickens go all around the place.

(Laughter)

IH: Did you folks have a fence around the yard or was it just . . .

VS: Oh, yeah.

IH: There was a fence?

VS: Wall.

IH: Stone wall?

VS: Yeah.

IH: Was it a low one?

VS: Yeah, not high high.

IH: Yeah, before, they used to make 'em low, yeah? Only couple of feet or something?

VS: Yeah, that you can climb over. And was all lava rock. Beautiful rocks.

IH: So what happened to that property over there?

VS: Well, when my mom died, then my father got married again. And he sold the place down there and he went to live up Kalāheo right behind Big Save. Then when he died, then his second wife--was Palama, you know, from Kalāheo. The Palama's auntie. Well, she sold the place. And then, she came real sick.

IH: Oh, she's the one sold this Kōloa place?

VS: No. My dad.

IH: Oh, your father did?

VS: Yeah. Then bought the one up Kalāheo.

IH: Okay, now, he also bought this property down here quite a while ago?

VS: That one, not this one. The other one.

IH: Oh, the one next door?

VS: Oh, yeah, that's, well, when he was married to my mother, he bought that place. And was just a beach house. We come down on Fridays

after school. You know, for go swimming, stay till Sunday, then we go back home, walk home. That's walk.

IH: Oh, you walk down and walk back?

VS: Yeah. You know, relax.

IH: So as a beach house, was it just a small beach house or was it a pretty big one?

VS: Oh, that one was a big one. Was really big. That owner used to own all these places right around here. That's why, my father, when he bought that place, he asked the original owner, Kula, that he want the right-of-way to the beach. And Kula said, "What for, Mr. Vidinha?"

He said, "I might die. My great-great grandchildren, people from the island, wants to go to the beach. You sell the whole thing, how can they go to the beach?" So he put it on the deed. Right-of-way forever and ever. It just happened when these people came, you know, they here what? Five years? They wanted to close it.

LS: [Nineteen] eighty-two, they bought in [nineteen] eighty. . . .

VS: [Nineteen] eighty-two?

LS: [Nineteen] eighty-three, I think. They only living here about three years now.

IH: They bought it right after the hurricane, then?

LS: Yeah.

VS: Yeah. And they wanted to close [the right-of-way to the beach]. We say, "You cannot close it." Oh, we had a big fuss, though. They just wanted to take it up. No way.

IH: But that's lucky, your father had the foresight to . . .

VS: Yeah, thank God.

IH: . . . get that right-of-way.

VS: Yeah.

IH: So, do you know how long your father was in the police department?

VS: Till he died.

LS: Not.

VS: No, he retired. Gee, I don't know how long he was in the police department. Like us, we don't even bother to think about those

things.

IH: Then, your brother also was a policeman?

VS: Yeah.

IH: Antone ["Kona" Vidinha].

(Interview interrupted, then resumes.)

IH: So, yeah, your brother was also a policeman?

VS: Yeah.

IH: Yeah, that's good. Here in Kōloa also?

VS: Yeah.

IH: So he took after his father?

VS: Yeah. But he was more strict.

IH: More strict than your father? Oh, boy. Did he also work his way up to sheriff?

LS: Yeah, he was one, deputy sheriff. Then after they did away with that old police department, they made him a captain. Then he worked there as a captain. I don't know how many years. Because when I went in, he was a captain. That was in '41.

VS: That's after the Second World War [started].

LS: After the Second World War. I think he went in about '26 or '27. And when I went in in '41, he was a captain. Then when they did away with the Kōloa substation, he moved to Līhu'e as a captain and he retired there. He retired at about what? [Nineteen] sixty-nine or fifty. . . .

VS: No, '66.

LS: [Nineteen] sixty-six, I think, he retired. Something like that. I'm not sure. I'm not sure what date.

VS: Then he ran for mayor.

IH: Yeah, he was the mayor, too, for a while.

LS: Yeah.

VS: Yeah. He was a good mayor. Not because he was my brother. But he was tops. You know, when he go for business, Mainland, you name it, he no take no taxpayer's money. His own.

IH: Oh, yeah? He spend his own?

VS: Yeah. He never take nothing. He said that's why he like his job. It's for the people. Everybody got to make money. He make money so he spend his money. Like him, he got married, but they didn't have no children. So only him and the wife. So he never take one five cents. No. That's why they named that park in Līhu'e, Vidinha Stadium.

IH: Oh, yeah. Oh, that was after your brother?

VS: Yeah.

IH: Yeah, I saw that. I was wondering . . .

VS: Because he put that up there.

IH: I was wondering if that was your brother or your father.

VS: My brother. He the one put that there, that stadium. That's why they put his name there.

IH: Okay. So, your father bought this property next door, you said, about fifty years ago? Is that what you said? About in 1937?

LS: [Nineteen] twenty-seven.

VS: [Nineteen] twenty-seven.

LS: Or '25. About '25. He built the house in '27, so '26, '27. So that's sixty some-odd years now.

IH: Oh, that's longer than I thought. So he built that first house, then, himself?

LS: Small house.

VS: Yeah, was small. Was just a beach cottage. You know, one big room that we all can sleep inside, and bathroom, and the shower outside, and that's it.

IH: Did anyone stay in there during the week?

VS: No.

IH: Was just the weekend.

VS: Just weekend.

IH: Were there any other houses in this neighborhood at that time?

VS: No, was only ours. Then gradually, people been buying.

IH: And what about the hotel across the street? Was that there before you folks?

VS: Oh, yeah, that was there. That's why my father bought this place because all was theirs. And then, was for sale, who wants to buy. Then the Costas bought, huh? Before the Costas was . . .

LS: Used to be Old Man . . .

VS: Hip---no not Hipa. Hipa was more down.

LS: Cockett?

VS: [John] Cockett.

LS: The Old Man Yamada? Dan Yamada from Kōloa. Cockett. And then Yamada.

VS: Then Costas bought.

LS: Yeah, after that. Costas bought in '41, I think.

VS: Yeah, Costa bought plenty. Bought this one here and the property on the side here. But he sold this one to Garden Island Apartments.

IH: This one right next door to you?

VS: Yeah.

IH: So they're going to put apartments in there?

VS: Get. Get four right here.

IH: Oh, these are apartments right next to you?

VS: Yeah.

IH: So what about down this side, down by Spouting Horn? Wasn't there a fishing village down there? Do you remember that?

VS: Yeah, Kukui'ula.

IH: Yeah, what was that like down there?

VS: Was the same thing, only wasn't that clean.

LS: They had all shacks. Mostly was Japanese fishermen living over there.

VS: Japanese fishermens used to live around there.

LS: Only had one big house there on the corner. The guy used to work for McBryde Plantation. What was his name now? The boy live up

Lāwa'i. He married that. . . . Where they get plenty flowers. What his name now?

VS: Plenty flowers?

LS: Yeah, the lady.

IH: So was mostly Japanese fishermen?

LS: Mostly Japanese fishermen down there.

IH: Oh, but they lived there?

VS: Yeah.

LS: Yeah, yeah. And then, the McBryde Sugar Company had one village back there, plantation village. Mostly Filipino laborers. Way in the back. They have all cane now over there.

VS: Then had one store over there, too. Kukui'ula Store from the plantation, eh? Right in the corner.

IH: So you could never tell now. I mean, there's nothing over there now.

VS: No. Nothing there now.

IH: The fishermen, did they fish to sell?

LS: Oh, yeah.

VS: Oh, yeah.

IH: And where did they sell their fish?

VS: To the markets, stores . . .

LS: They go around peddling their fish.

VS: . . . or people, or houses.

LS: Go around peddling.

IH: In the residential areas?

VS: Yeah.

IH: So did they just stay right down here in Po'ipū or they'd go up to Kōloa and all around or . . .

VS: Well, all depends, where they go. If they sell it all, better for them. (Laughs) Yeah, all depends, where they go.

IH: What kind of fish did they sell?

VS: Oh, all kinds.

LS: Mostly was akule.

VS: Akule.

IH: Oh, mostly akule.

LS: They had some other kind fish, but mostly was akule. They used to go out all night fishing in the little sampans.

IH: So that's always been a harbor over there?

VS: Yeah. That one and this one here, right here, too.

IH: Is that a natural harbor?

LS: Natural, yeah.

VS: Yeah, that's natural, that.

LS: They just build one little breakwater for the boats.

VS: Even by the landing, yeah, they used to go fishing right here, too.

IH: Kōloa Landing?

VS: Yeah. And the big boats, that's where they come in. But they get the small boats to bring the passengers inland. They stay way out, eh?

IH: The big [inter-island] boats stay way out?

VS: Yeah.

LS: Eh, the big are small, ugly, little boats like the old boats.

VS: Yeah, but to us, that looked big.

LS: Humu'ula. What the other name now? I forget the name, now. I remember one was the old. . . . I forget the name of that old boats.

(Interview interrupted, then resumes.)

IH: So, before didn't have all these houses, could you see the landing? Could you see the boats coming in from here?

VS: Well, if you walk out in the road, yeah, you can see them come in. Not from here, the other side, you know. Because his brother bought this place, built this house as apartment. And he was renting. Then he didn't want the beach, so he told he going sell the place.

So Louis said, "Oh, I like buy 'em."

So he said, "Okay. If you want to buy."

So those days, we didn't have enough money. He wanted cash. So what we did, our good friends--had to get three cosigners to sign at the bank. If we cannot pay, they got to pay for us. But we made it.

IH: What was your husband doing at that time? He was a policeman?

VS: Yeah. No, he was working at Costa Store in Kalāheo.

IH: Oh, that's before he was a policeman?

VS: Yeah.

IH: So you said he became a policeman in '41, so that was before '41, then, huh?

VS: Yeah. Then I had my children. The house was too small. When we bought this place, then we came here. Upstairs was the living room and three bedrooms, you know. And this is the original kitchen. And the middle was a studio. But they make noise, disturb the people that was living down. So when they left, I told Louis, "Ey, break it down." The whole house is ours. That's what we did.

IH: Especially when you have children, yeah, you need a bigger home.

VS: Yeah. Because they come in the kitchen, then they run upstairs, run back and forth. Make noise, eh? But they never complained. But to myself, I told him, "Ey, that's too much noise." So we tear it down.

LS: Oh, one of the small inter-island ships that used to come here was the Kīna'u.

VS: Oh, yeah.

IH: Oh, the Kīna'u, yeah, I've heard of that.

LS: The other one, had one more, but I cannot recall it.

VS: The Humu'ula.

LS: Humu'ula, no. That's the big passenger one used to come down Nawiliwili, that one. Was the Kīna'u and had one more small one. But I don't recall the name. [Probably the Claudine.]

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

IH: So the bigger ships went to Port Allen; the smaller ones came over here to Kōloa Landing.

VS: Yeah. Was nice, though.

IH: So even when they unloaded all the cargo and stuff, they'd have to send out boats . . .

VS: Yeah.

IH: . . . to pick up the cargo and bring it? And even when they took the cane out there, too?

LS: Yeah, all the . . .

IH: On the small boats?

LS: Yeah, yeah. Used to be all by small boats.

IH: Oh, took a while, then, huh, to load and unload?

LS: Yeah, yeah. And that was the only harbor this side. Port Allen and Nāwiliwili way after.

IH: Oh, yeah?

LS: Yeah, way after. And they used to land at Hanalei, too, way up there in Hanalei Pier over there. They used to land up there, too, the small boats. Then they built Port Allen and Nāwiliwili way afterwards. I remember when I was working at the store, I used to haul freight from down here. With a truck, come down pick up freight.

IH: Oh, so, actually, this landing serviced this whole side, then?

LS: Yeah, right.

IH: But it's such a small little thing down there.

LS: Yeah.

VS: Well, used to . . .

LS: Well, Waimea, too. They used to land Waimea. They have a . . .

VS: . . . used to be big before.

IH: Oh, they used to land Waimea, too?

LS: Waimea. Waimea, yeah. Same way, use a little boat to come in and out. You know, taking cargo, passengers, everything. Oh, yeah.

VS: Was nice, though.

IH: Yeah? You folks used to go down to the landing sometimes and watch them come in and out?

VS: Yeah. Watch.

IH: Were there many passengers coming in here at the landing?

VS: Oh, yeah. From the different islands, they like come visit. And those days, was cheap. But to us, was expensive. But you try do that now. (Chuckles)

IH: Yeah, now, it's expensive. So, if you wanted to go to Honolulu, you'd have to go out here, Kōloa Landing?

VS: Yeah, yeah.

IH: Did you folks ever have chance to go to Honolulu very much when you were small?

VS: Oh, yeah. I used to go. Because my uncle, my mother's brother, used to be a security guard at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. And I took hula lessons. And after school, I catch the boat, then I go Honolulu.

IH: For the summer?

VS: No. For Saturday, Sunday, and come home Monday. I go Friday.

IH: What did you do up there?

VS: Dance the hula.

IH: Oh, yeah? Up at Royal Hawaiian Hotel?

VS: The Royal Hawaiian.

IH: Oh, yeah? Oh.

VS: And play my ukulele. (Chuckles)

IH: This is when you were still in school?

VS: (Chuckles) Yeah. No, after school. I mean, I got through with school when I was working.

IH: Yeah, you pau school already?

VS: Was nice, though. We went down when and we wen go see. Ho, the big change. Was so pretty before. And Waikīkī. When me and him wen take a walk down there. You no can walk by the ocean. You got to go over and tell, "Excuse, excuse." Shee, might trip over somebody,

yeah?

IH: Yeah, it's so crowded now days. What was it like in those days when you used to go over there?

VS: Ho, all open. Hardly anybody down there. Only get fishermens.

LS: Used to be duck ponds down there, before, Waikīkī. Rice paddies, duck ponds.

VS: Yeah. Big, big change.

IH: So when you would go to Honolulu to dance at the Royal, would you stay there at the Royal, too?

VS: I stayed with my uncle. He had a house there. Rent.

IH: In Waikīkī?

VS: Mm hmm [yes], right close. Then he . . .

IH: What was his name?

VS: Hale. And he bought one place in Honolulu. Way up the hill. I forget what place is that. And he had a house there.

IH: What was his first name?

VS: Oh, I forget his . . .

IH: But his last name was Hale?

VS: Yeah.

IH: Was your mom's brother?

VS: Yeah.

LS: What his first name? We used to call him only "Uncle Hale," I know.

VS: Yeah. Only "Uncle Hale," we used to call him all the time.

LS: Before, you no could use first names, you know.

VS: Yeah.

LS: To the elder people. They slap your mouth.

IH: Oh, yeah?

LS: Oh, yeah. You got to call 'em by the last name. "Tūtū Hale" or what, any kind.

IH: Oh, and you said he was working at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel? Doing what?

VS: Security guard. The whole hotel.

IH: And did he work there for a long time?

VS: Oh, yeah. Till he died.

IH: So, what was that like, dancing at the Royal?

VS: Was nice.

IH: Did you go up with the hula troupe?

VS: No. Only me, from Kaua'i.

IH: Only you just . . .

VS: And then, meet the other ones from Honolulu.

IH: Oh, yeah? Oh, what troupe were you dancing with?

VS: They take from different island, one.

IH: And who was the kumu hula?

VS: Oh, I don't know their name. Us, we just go dance and like come home already. (Laughs) Young, eh?

IH: Oh, what an experience, though, go to Honolulu to dance. Did you ever dance when you were here?

VS: Yeah, when get parties like that only. And all free. Only Honolulu, they used to pay. But I give 'em to my uncle because I stay with him, eh? Then he buy the food and everything.

IH: But over here, you dance for free?

VS: Yeah. Every place we go, we dance for free, as long we get food for eat. (Chuckles) Not anymore.

IH: Not anymore. They pay good now.

VS: Yeah.

IH: So who was your hula teacher here?

VS: My mother used to teach me. You start from the floor, then come up.

IH: Oh, you're dancing on the floor?

VS: You sit on the floor.

IH: You kneeling on the floor?

VS: You kneel on the floor. Then you sit down. Then she tell, "One, two, three." One, two, three, come front; one, two, three. And I used to go one, two, three, four, five, six, seven. Ho, she spank me.

"Not your whole hand. Make your hand straight and just twist your wrist like that. And then, gradually, come up. Then one, two; one, two."

I said, "Mama said one, two, three."

"No. One, two; one, two. It's for you exercise your hands."
(Laughs)

Yeah, ho, when you think about those days.

IH: So, your mother, she didn't work?

VS: No.

IH: Stayed home with---it's a big family, too, yeah? She worked a lot at home probably.

VS: Oh, yeah.

IH: What do you remember about her?

VS: She was a very good mother.

IH: Did she talk to you folks in Hawaiian?

VS: Mm hmm [yes] and in English, too.

IH: Do you remember Hawaiian? Do you use it at all?

VS: No, not anymore. The only kind people I no like, I say, "Pa'a ka waha."

IH: What is that?

VS: "Shut your mouth." And hana ka lima. "Do it with your hands if you don't know how to talk right." (Laughs) Sometimes she used to call us and we make pretend we no hear and she say, "Pepeiao kuli." "As if we deaf." (Laughs)

IH: Now days, not too many people use Hawaiian.

VS: No.

LS: They're trying to do Hawaiian classes now like in that community college. They have special classes now. And even this lady from

Ni'ihau--but I cannot pronounce her name, the Hawaiian teacher. They teaching preschoolers, too. Up in Puhi, they have one classes up there.

VS: Yeah, came in the paper.

IH: Yeah, that's that Punana Leo [Hawaiian-language immersion program for preschoolers].

LS: I forget their name.

IH: Yeah, that have that preschool. Hawaiian preschool? Yeah, Punana Leo. Did you use any of these Hawaiian expressions with your children when they were growing up? No? I guess was pretty much that way all the way around, yeah? Not too many people use it . . .

VS: Yeah. But they used to listen to me what I say. And the father. They never answer back. No way.

IH: Not like today, huh?

VS: Ho.

IH: Today is different. (Chuckles)

VS: Yeah. And when they go places, I say, "If you late, you call." You going be delayed and you all right. They always do that. Only one night, my son was high school. (Chuckles) I mean, no put that. I just telling you, eh? He went out. I said, "Sonny"--and he was in the police force already. I said, "Always call 11:30 [p.m.]. Give you folks till 11:30." And he was working. Ho, I look at the watch. He never even call, never even come home. He came home 12:30. I gave him good hell. Said he was sorry, forgot. I said, "How can you forget?" So he wanted to go to another--he never went. I said, "No, you're not going." And he never went. From that day on, he called all the time. Even when he's married. He got married and then he joined the police force in Honolulu, he call his wife, he's going to be delayed. She was so happy.

IH: Good training, then. (Chuckles)

VS: She was so happy. When we went Honolulu one time, she hug me, she kiss me. I said, "What's the matter Barbara? What happened?"

"Oh, Mommy, I love you."

I said, "What I did to you?"

Then she explain, you know. And she said, because, you know, when you're in the police, she worry, eh? So he called. Call her all the time.

IH: Oh, that's good.

VS: Give him a good habit. (Chuckles)

IH: What about this area down here, Po'ipū? When did it start growing up?

VS: That one there wen start. . . . Used to go by Sheraton, you know, the old road, straight down.

LS: That's only in the last fifteen years that's been developed.

IH: Oh, before, wasn't?

LS: Yeah, was all one home here, one home there. Not much. And the last fifteen years--no, maybe twenty.

VS: Yeah, not fifteen years.

LS: Louis worked in that hotel twenty-one. Oh, was only the hotel there. Only that small hotel. Was . . .

VS: Waiohai.

LS: The Waiohai. That's all, the small one. Then they built. About, let's say . . .

VS: Twenty-five.

LS: . . . in the last twenty-five years.

IH: Oh, pretty recent, then.

LS: Yeah, yeah.

IH: Even the homes that are right over here?

LS: Oh, yeah, yeah.

IH: That's all recent, too?

LS: Yeah, yeah.

VS: Yeah.

(Interview interrupted, then resumes.)

VS: Yeah, now big change.

IH: Yeah, I thought these homes up here by Po'ipū, you know the ones as you come down? I thought they were little bit older.

VS: Yeah, they old up there.

LS: Where?

VS: Right up here by Duvauchelle.

IH: No, the ones more down here. You know, down. . . . I don't know what you call that area.

LS: Waikomo, too, that area. Where they have that condos?

IH: You know, when you come down past Kukui'ula Store, past the store. You have . . .

VS: Oh, that's Waikomo.

IH: You call that Waikomo?

LS: That's condo, that.

VS: That's all condos. That's new, that.

LS: That is new.

IH: Oh, that's new?

LS: Yeah, yeah.

VS: That is all new. In fact, from there till Po'ipū, that's all new on the right side. All the condos. Kiahuna and all that, that's all new.

IH: Maybe you can tell me what happened over here during the hurricane. What happened to your house and stuff.

VS: Well, before the hurricane, these people just bought this property in front here.

IH: The one in front of you?

LS: That one, this side.

VS: Right here. And they were building this house. Was about month and half, eh, would be completed?

LS: Was about 90 percent completed.

VS: And the hurricane came and, you know, was so strong. We wasn't home. And I had two big mango trees in my yard. Everything came right---and then, we left our dog home, put our car in the garage, thought, oh, wouldn't be that bad, you know. Left his food out here and we went up my sister-in-law's--because my brother died. Went up and when we came back the next day, oh, my God. We couldn't even see the road. Because down here . . .

LS: The beach side, all the way from Po'ipū, where the Waiohai was . . .

VS: Till Kukui'ula, all gone.

LS: Was all wiped out, the front. Everything.

VS: All the front, all wiped out.

IH: You mean, all the hotels, in the front?

LS: Yeah, the hotel was wrecked. They went through the first floor just like a tractor went through. Big damage. But these other houses over here, one house, had about four houses there, all gone. Everything gone. All . . .

VS: All the front.

LS: Like what saved our house . . .

VS: Hale Nani, too, the restaurant there, that big restaurant.

LS: What saved our house was that two big mango trees here that held all the big timbers as high as our garage here and it deflected the water that way. And it saved all these other houses down here, too. We had damage, minor, compared to the other people. We suffered about \$35,000 damage.

IH: But that's not bad compared to--I know a lot of these places were wiped out.

LS: Wiped out.

VS: Oh, yeah. All the front. And had a two-story over there, but wasn't road level. Was way further down. And my mom planted two royal palm trees. Those trees are really tough trees. One flipped on the roof and held that two-story. I think we get the pictures, no?

LS: I don't know where you wen get 'em.

VS: Yeah, I think it's underneath the shelf, Daddy. Held that and never damage that house, not too much.

IH: So was all the trees that held back everything? Oh, luckily, you had all the big trees, yeah?

VS: Yeah. Those trees are powerful. Like she planted two. One, never damage, but we didn't have lights for a whole month so the electrician wen drill hole, you know, to put the wire temporarily. That's how the tree died. If I only knew. But I planted one the same place. But the stump. If you like go check the stump, the stump is just as hard as ever. Those trees are really powerful. It's better than coconut.

(LS brings photo album.)

LS: You can see some of these pictures.

IH: Oh, my goodness.

LS: This is our house. See, this is our place here. This was the front. This was another house that came across.

IH: These were all the other houses that came over here?

LS: Yeah. Came across. We had full inside our yard, all houses.

IH: Wow. And you didn't have electricity for one whole month?

LS: Oh, yeah. Over.

IH: How come it took so long?

LS: All the lines were down. You look all around . . .

VS: All the lines were down.

LS: All the lines were down, down here.

IH: My goodness. And you had to clean all this rubbish away yourself?

VS: Yeah.

LS: The boys helped out. The nephews . . .

VS: Well, my son-in-law, you know, his boss from Honolulu came down and he told him about our place. And the boss said, "Oh, I want to go see your parents' place," you know, "your in-laws' place." Came down. See all the mess here and said, oh, this tractor, his tractor, bring down and dump everything on the road.

IH: Oh, how nice.

VS: He was nice, yeah.

LS: Mr. Ching from Hawaiian Highway Construction, Honolulu. That was his boss.

IH: So all the big rocks from the ocean just came up, yeah?

VS: Yeah, ho.

LS: Oh, yeah.

IH: And then, I heard on the news reports had all kind of people looting and stuff. Is that true?

LS: Yeah.

VS: Yeah, yeah. Because that house had lot of copper. And my son asked his chief of police in Honolulu if he would come because the phone was out of order. Then, my three nephews from Honolulu came down, too. And they came. They cleaned all the front here. They throw all the copper in the front because the county would come and pick it all up, all the junks like that. Louis went to Kōloa to go get fresh water for us because we didn't have water down here. When he went, the dog was in the house, and I was in the house in the kitchen. And he start barking. You know, his fur start standing up. So I came out. Had these two guys, boys. They wanted the copper. I don't mind if they take the copper because we didn't want it, but they was throwing all the junks back in here. So I said, "Listen here, boys. This is private property."

One said, "Oh, you black nigger, shut up."

IH: Oh, no.

VS: I said, "Black nigger?" I yelled. I said, "Pā'ele! I'm coming." I said, "I going in my house, get my shotgun and shoot you goddamn bastards." And we no more shotgun, eh? (Chuckles) One guy wen fall down, he hurt his leg.

He said, "My leg! My leg!"

I said, "Good for you."

(Referring to the photos of the hurricane damage.)

IH: This is the palm tree on top--the royal palm--on top the house over here?

VS: Yeah, yeah.

IH: This is somebody else's house in your front yard?

VS: Yeah, that's that one I was telling you, the two-story [house].

IH: Oh, my goodness.

VS: That's why those trees are so powerful. You know, wen just flip over and hold that house back.

IH: Oh, my goodness. Otherwise, that house would have just smashed on top your house, eh?

VS: Yeah. And you know, that's two-story [house]. The top had a teacher. (LS says good-bye to visitor.) Had a teacher. You know, her clothes in her closet? Nothing got damaged. Not even wet.

LS: Carried the second floor right out.

VS: Yeah.

IH: So the water came up, too?

VS: Oh, yeah.

IH: Everything came up?

VS: But with all that trash was in here, the water wen turn around and went down that way. That's why, not too much went in the house. Although, went in our house. My living room door break open, eh? Took all my lau hala mat, push 'em all on the side, but nothing break.

IH: Boy, lots of damage, yeah?

VS: Yeah.

IH: Terrible. So your daughter must have been out of work for a while, too, then, huh?

VS: Oh, yeah. And when . . .

IH: How long did they have to close the hotel?

VS: When that happened, my daughter was in Las Vegas.

LS: No, she worked. They had to work in the hotel. They couldn't come out. Some people went back after the storm.

IH: Oh, yeah? Where did she work? Po'ipū Beach [Hotel] or Waiohai?

LS: Po'ipū Beach at Waiohai. You know, the first floor was all damaged, but they had the second floor and stuff, eh?

IH: Oh, so they still using the hotel even right after?

LS: Yeah, and they had to help clean up.

VS: And lot of them didn't want to go out. That's why, all their rent cars was all damaged.

IH: Oh, the rental cars, yeah?

VS: Because they said, oh, they not going, they not going, wouldn't be that bad, eh? Hoo, hardheads.

IH: But you folks didn't think it would be that bad either, right, you were saying?

VS: No, but we had to leave. The police came and said, "Everybody out."

IH: But you left your dog home, huh?

VS: Well, we took him, but just happened, my sister-in-law. . . . He's used to up in the deck. He don't stay outdoors at night. He go up on the deck; we take 'em up there. When we got up there [to VS's sister-in-law's house], her garage door couldn't close. The electric went off. And he's not used to staying nobody's place. He start barking, and barking, and barking. My sister-in-law said, "Bring 'em in the house."

I said, "No, he's not used to." So I told Louis, "We take 'em home." So we brought him home. We left him. The food over here, and put our car over here. You know, kind of protect. And thank God, wen protect 'em. And everything came in. But the living room door broke open, he went upstairs on the deck.

IH: But he was okay up there, eh?

VS: Yeah, yeah. Then when we came home, I start yelling for him. Pā'e'e. And I was crying. And this boy, I'm sorry I never took his name. He said, "Lady, what are you yelling for?"

I said, "My dog! I left my dog home."

And he said, where I was living? So I told him right by this house. (LS points to the house next door.) The top was all right, but the bottom was all gone, too. I said that house, right next. Never think if the house was up or down. I was thinking about him. So he's young, he can go over those boulders, you name it.

IH: Oh, you couldn't get to the house?

VS: We came, but me and him slowly, eh? We got to hold this, hold that for go because all the front was all over the road. Oh. Never took long, he said, "Lady! Your dog got me!" Because when he came here, he went in the house through the living-room door. This door didn't break. That's the same door. He went through the living room. He went upstairs. Pā'e'e was up there. Pā'e'e wen grab 'em. Then Louis yelled, "Pā'e'e, let loose! That's a friend." He opened his mouth, but he was [growling], "Brrr-brrr." Right there. That guy couldn't move. But lucky, thank God, he had long-sleeve shirt with a jacket on and wen only make the mark, you know. Because Louis said, "Look, I'll take you to the doctor. Let me see."

He said, "No, no, no. He never bite me. Look. You get smart dog."

From that time on, he's so afraid of high tide.

IH: Oh, yeah, he must have seen the water come, huh? (Chuckles)

VS: Yeah. But the looters around here, oh. Had one man, had a two-story in the front there, he was renting. And he sell all shells, and all kind jewelry down Spouting Horn, eh? And he never thought would be that bad, too. Nobody thought would be that bad. Took everything. When he came back, he never find nothing. Had the

looters all over there. On the roadside, picking up everything. Like us, we no like bother when we came because we might get hurt, eh? Oh, was bad.

(LS greets visitor. Interview interrupted, then resumes.)

VS: That's our neighbor, the parents. Her in-laws live right across over there. Because when they go over there, that's rental unit, that. But they nice people.

IH: Oh, the ones that you rent to right here?

VS: No, no. The other side. They bought that place and then they made 'em rental units, you know. By the week, by the month, you name it. But ho, by the month now, how much they raise the price, Daddy? Our friends used to come and stay over there.

LS: Twelve hundred [dollars], that.

VS: Twelve hundred [dollars] a month.

IH: Oh, no, you're kidding. How big is the place?

VS: Two-bedroom.

LS: House.

IH: Two-bedroom house for \$1200?

VS: Yeah. And you take a bath outside.

IH: Ha?

VS: Outside.

LS: This is beach property. You want to live in paradise, you pay.

IH: So are a lot of these rentals, now?

LS: Yeah, plenty.

IH: Oh, my goodness, that's . . .

VS: Only that one is not rental.

IH: . . . that's high.

VS: Telling me. Shee.

IH: So you're sitting on a gold mine, then.

LS: Our taxes are very high, too.

IH: Yeah, I'm sure of it.

VS: You know what they should do? They should change the law and make the people that get the money, buy property, build these magnificent houses, let them pay. Not us that born, raised on this island, live here forever, and we got to pay the high tax, too. Ho.

IH: Yeah, it's not fair, yeah?

VS: Not fair. That is not fair.

IH: Just like, you know, I work in Waikīkī, but the hotel I work for is small. But it's right in Waikīkī on the beach. It's just like they're forced to go big because they pay just as much tax as the next guy. Yeah, that's the only thing about that land tax.

VS: Yeah, too high, the land tax. Oh.

IH: Okay. Maybe we can talk little bit about your children. I know you said you have a son that lives in Honolulu?

VS: Mm hmm [yes].

IH: That's the oldest?

VS: Yeah.

IH: And his name?

VS: Louis Souza. Louis Leon Souza.

LS: He's a captain of police, live Makakilo. Maybe you heard of him.

IH: Oh, he's a police captain?

LS: He's with the CID, Crime Investigation Department. He the one been cracking all those cases down Wai'anae, the cars and all those kids stealing cars.

IH: Oh, yeah? Oh, terrific. Oh, gee, the police department runs in your family, then?

VS: Yeah. Oh, that's something. (Chuckles) Yeah, run all in the family.

IH: And then, you have two daughters, you said?

VS: Yeah.

IH: And one is still living with you?

VS: Yeah, she's still home. That's the one work at the hotel, Julie. Juliette is her name. We call her "Julie." And Lei, she live

Waimea. She has a house in Honolulu, but the husband got transferred over here to work construction job. And they stayed here how many years now? Five?

LS: Almost eight been over here.

VS: Five, six. . . . Eight, yeah. So they're still here. So she's a beautician. She was working in Honolulu, she moved here, now she got a job over here. Her boss lives in Waimea, too. Up on the hill going up Kōke'e. So right close. Not too far. They not living Mainland.

IH: Yeah, luckily, yeah? (Chuckles) And did they all go to Kōloa Elementary?

VS: Yeah. And Kaua'i High School.

IH: At that time, then they had bus to go to the high school?

LS: Yeah.

VS: Yeah.

IH: School bus already, yeah?

VS: Yeah.

IH: When you were going to school, they didn't have the school bus, yeah?

LS: No more.

VS: No school bus.

IH: So how did the kids get to school, the ones that went to school?

LS: Walk.

VS: Walk.

IH: To high school?

LS: No, no, no.

VS: No.

IH: How did they get to high school, the ones that went?

LS: In private cars. Private car. One guy get a car, he take five or six. Pay the gasoline and so forth.

IH: Oh. So that really limited the ones who could go, yeah? If you didn't have a ride, you really just couldn't go. I'm surprised they

didn't have a school bus or something, even back of a truck or something like that.

LS: Well, never come until late, bus.

IH: Or even trucks or something.

LS: Oh, yeah.

IH: Okay, I guess that's all for now, unless you can think of anything else.

VS: Yeah. Yeah, I think of something. She's very nice, put down, too. You.

(Laughter)

IH: Oh, thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW

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