

Finding Aid for

THE TRUE STORY OF  
KALUAIKOOLAU  
AS TOLD BY HIS WIFE, PIILANI

*Translated from the Hawaiian Language by  
FRANCES N. FRAZIER*

Kaua'i Historical Society

MS 40

**MS40**

**True Story of Kaluaikoolau as Told by his Wife, Piilani**

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**Abstract**

This collection is comprised of the working papers of the Kaua'i Historical Society's Publications Committee in obtaining all necessary grants, permissions, copyright information, contracts with the University of Hawaii Press, and arrangements for publishing the manuscript entitled The True Story of Kaluaikoolau as Told by his Wife, Piilani.

This publication is translated from the Hawaiian language by Frances N. Frazier. It includes both the original Hawaiian language version, followed by the English translation. Ms. Frazier, author and Hawaiian scholar, had previously published the English translation in the *Hawaiian Journal of History* (1987 v.21, p.1-41).

**Historical Background**

In 1892, after being diagnosed with Leprosy, Kaluaikoolau fled into the Kalalau Valley of Kaua'i with his son, also a leper. This remote valley was a refuge for several dozen afflicted with Leprosy who choose to live in the valley with the aid of family and friends, rather than be confined to the Leper colony on Molokai.

In 1893, Kaluaikoolau killed a sheriff and two soldiers who had been sent to capture all the lepers for not submitting to exile on Molokai. Later attempts to capture Kaluaikoolau also failed. His son died in 1896, and he died two months later. Piilani, his wife, buried Kaluaikoolau with his rifle, and lived in the valley herself for several years, later returning to the residence of her mother-in-law, Kukui, in Kekaha. Piilani died on September 14, 1914, in Waimea, Kauai.

Piilani told the story to John Kahikina Sheldon, who published it in 1906, in the Hawaiian language.

The story of Kaluaikoolau (who is also referred to as "Kauai" and "Kaluai") has been told by several well-known authors over the years. C.B. Hofgaard's "The Story of Piilani" was presented to the Kauai Historical Society in 1916 – Hofgaard had hunted, fished and been a paniolo with Kaluaikoolau; this paper was later published in KHS's

publication Kauai Papers. Jack London's version of the story is perhaps the most widely known, detailing the shooting and cannonading that occurred.

### **Scope and Content**

Robert J. Schleck, then Chairman of the Publications Committee of the Kauai Historical Society, and other members of the committee worked on this project from conception until publication. Dr. John M. Lydgate, then the Society's President, secured the necessary grants, and sent letters of thanks with advance copies to donors who helped fund the project. Mary Requilman, Executive Director of KHS, provided support for the project, along with several volunteers.

Materials included in this manuscript also include news releases, corrections, additions, price estimates, and the printout of the final text, final corrections, and dust jacket.

CONTAINER LIST

Box	Folder	
1	1	Publication grants -- requests and acknowledgements
	2	Contract: Frances N. Frazier and Kaua'i Historical Society
	3	Contract: Kaua'i Historical Society and U. of Hawaii Press
	4	Copies: original work, translation, photos; floppy discs
	5	Correspondence with Lucille Aono, corrections, cost estimates
	6	Printout of final text and dust jacket, final corrections
	7	Miscellaneous working papers
	8	Frances N. Frazier biographical material
	9	Press release, luncheon, Lucille Aono advance copies
	10	Frances N. Frazier -- copyright
	11	Photos and slides
2	1	Compact disks of paper files