

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

HE 'ĀINA WAI: REMEMBERING WATER NARRATIVES OF WAI'ANAE KAI

by

Natashja Wahine'aipōhaku Tong

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For years the Wai'anae moku has been portrayed as a “wasteland,” and it has been taken for granted that this district has been perpetually void of water. The name “Wai'anae,” asserts that there were two things (among others) that were important in this 'āina: wai and 'anae. So where did all the “wai” in Wai'anae go? This thesis examines archival and other primary source documents to account for the history of water in the Wai'anae ahupua'a. I demonstrate that Wai'anae was historically a place of wai and offer a detailed account of critical diversions of water resources in Wai'anae from the Māhele forward. This thesis argues that at the time of the Māhele, Wai'anae was a place of wai and that water diversion by the Waianae Company, a sugar plantation, caused streams and many springs to run dry and had adverse affects on kalo cultivation into the 1930s.