



**Honouliuli Internment Camp
Highlights from the Road to NPS Preservation**

Kunia, Oahu
February 18, 2015

- 2007** Monsanto acquires approximately 2,300 acres of agricultural-zoned land in Kunia, Oahu, for its farm. Included on the land are remnants of a former World War II internment camp in an overgrown gulch. The company pledges to work with the community to help preserve and protect the site for its cultural and historic significance.
- 2008** Jeff Burton, consultant to the National Park Service (NPS) and a leading authority on the archeology of World War II confinement sites, together with three other archeologists and 10 volunteers, begins the monumental task of surveying the heavily overgrown Honouliuli Internment Camp site, and mapping out the remaining structures and foundations left behind. Additional field work and written reports were done in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.
- The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) organizes the first Honouliuli Pilgrimage, modeled after similar camp pilgrimages that have taken place at Manzanar and other U.S. Mainland camps, and titled "Never Again: E.O. 9066 to Honouliuli." Monsanto Hawaii partnered with the JCCH to host the pilgrimage and program in observance of the 65th anniversary of the camps' opening. The event is one of many collaborative and educational activities that would take place at the site in the years to come.
- 2009** U.S. Congresswoman Mazie Hirono tours the Honouliuli Internment Camp site, one of many visitors to the site. Over the years, Monsanto Hawaii has worked with JCCH, the University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu and the NPS to open the camp site to students, archaeologists, volunteers, media and other individuals interested in learning more and contributing to the site's preservation efforts.
- The Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board for the Department of Land and Natural Resources approved the Honouliuli site for the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places and recommended sending the application on to the federal level for consideration to the National Register of Historic Places.
- 2010** In cooperation with the University of Hawai'i, West O'ahu, Monsanto Hawaii hosts the first Archaeology Field School at Honouliuli, providing students site access, classroom and conference room space, and archaeology equipment. This annual educational activity helps students with written reports, archival and oral history research, academic presentations and publications, development of related courses and curriculum, and community outreach.

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2011 JCCH's annual Honouliuli Day of Remembrance and 2nd Honouliuli Pilgrimage is hosted at Monsanto Hawaii's Kunia Farm. More than 200 teachers, family members of Hawaii internees, and interested members of the public attended the event's educational presentations, break-out sessions and site tour.

In November, the NPS and Monsanto sign a letter of intent for possible site acquisition by the United States of America for the purpose of including Honouliuli in the National Park System. The NPS also submits an application for the site to be added to the National Registry of Historic Places.

2012 Honouliuli is added to the National Registry of Historic Places and receives federal support and resources for enhancing preservation efforts.

Hawaii Senate Bill 2678 is introduced and passed, securing \$100,000 in matching funds for preservation efforts. The bill also creates the Honouliuli Advisory Committee, which tracks and reports progress to the legislature. Each committee member has a personal, cultural and/or historical interest in the site, and actively participates in the site preservation.

"The Untold Story: Internment of Japanese Americans in Hawaii" premieres. Produced by the JCCH, the hour-long film is the first full-length documentary to chronicle the story of Japanese Americans' internment in Hawaii.

2013 The Honouliuli Advisory Committee meets for a visioning session and to gather input on ongoing preservation efforts.

2014 The NPS releases a draft study proposing that the Honouliuli Internment Camp be added to the National Park System as a National Historic Site or National Monument. In its study, the NPS reports that Honouliuli Internment Camp represents a "distinct and important aspect of American history associated with civil rights in times of conflict that is not adequately represented or protected elsewhere, and (is) therefore suitable for inclusion in the National Park System."

Monsanto Hawaii completes a multi-year process to subdivide and prepare the land for transfer. The company contributed roughly \$80,000 and hundreds of man hours in order to complete this work. The value of the land itself is appraised at \$461,700.

JCCH presents a petition signed by more than 6,000 Americans, expressing their support for Honouliuli to be preserved under the National Park System.

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