U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

Henry S. Pritchett, Superintendent.

State: H.I.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 2461

LOCALITY:
Hanaakahai, Island of Moloka'i

1900

CHIEF OF PARTY:
J. W. Perkins
Topography of Kaunakakai
Island of Molokai, H. I.

Kaunakakai is situated on a small sandy plain at
the foot of the slope on the southern side of Molokai.
Toward the N.W. the surface is comparatively level and
in this section the cane lands of the American Sugar Co are
located. Although of excellent soil from six to eight feet
depth, it has been found necessary to suspend the operation
of the plantation on account of the impracticability of securing
a sufficient supply of fresh water.
Toward the N. and N.E. the surface rises in comparatively
easy mountain slopes about 3/4 of a mile from the
beach, while toward the E. the slopes become steeper
and approach the sea, the whole surface being cut by
almost impassable gullies. The slopes are bare, except
for scanty grass, and bushes in the gullies, but the
plain around the town is covered by a growth of agelastias.

As the water is extremely shallow for a long distance
from the shore, a substantial rock fill has recently
been built to enable the plantation railroad to reach
the landing, half a mile off shore, where the island
steamers come alongside to discharge. The smaller
of the docks is of pile structure which can only be
reached by small boats.

The greater portion of the town lies back of the
railroad track, but could not be reached in the
time allowed, especially as it is buried in trees.