

DESCRiPTiVE REPORT.

To accompany sheet "K", Kahuku Lava flow of 1887 to sta. Kupaepae,
Island of Hawaii.

Soline R. Hand, Asst. Chief of Party.

The country embraced within these limits comprises the most
southerly portion of the island. There is a great cliff which starts at South
Point and trends North, becoming more and more high as it leaves the point; it
divides the land into two parts greatly diversified in character: on the West
side it is low, of very gentle and even slope and composed of lava flows com-
paratively recent, and though the greater part is barren, here and there are
spots of sparse vegetation. The shoreline is irregular and low, the cliffs not
rising much over 10 ft. At and near Puu Hou (hill) there are long stretches of
sand.

Pu'u Hou was formerly a trig. station but erosion has carried
away the mark, but tests show that the point of the hill may, for hydrographi-
c purposes, be used as the original mark: it was originally 273 ft. but is now
230.

From shore I could not see a sign of the Kailikii Shoal as shown
on chart 4115. There is a small fishing lillage, Waiahuakini, at the sea near
the base of the great cliffs, and a landing as shown nearby, in the line of
trees is a trail leading to the top of the pali: there is said to be no other
for several miles North. There is no such place as Kaualu at top of the cliffs,
and there is no local authority for the name Maau as applied to Molilele
Pali.

A dangerous shoal makes off South Point at the Light: it ap-
ppears to be about 200 m. wide and more. Through the courtesy of the captain
of the Mauna Loa I took two vertical angles on the Light en route to Hon-
oulu. This put us 0.4 mi. off the light, when bearing N15W (mag) and N60E (mag); deviation negligible. In these positions there was more discolored water to the South, and I estimated the depth at between 4 and 5 fms, when bearings were
taken. In rough weather it is said to break even outside of these
positions. This vessel, and others, do not usually round the point so close in.

An interesting narrative was given me concerning this shoal:
it was said that in olden times parties of natives would proceed in large can-
oes to South Point when starting for Tahiti and would keep the course by fol-
lowing the line of discolored water, which it was claimed, extended that far.

East of the cliffs and extending as far as Kaualu is a
beautiful grassy plain: the soil is bright yellow and about three feet deep, and
along the coast it has been washed back, exposing the bare, black lava:
here and there on the plains are frequent outcroppings of ancient lava flows.
A wagon can cross this plain from Waiohinu directly to the Light at South
Point.

N.E. of Kaualu is another area of low, even sloping lava, with
scant vegetation, but not so barren as the area West of the great Pali. At the
extreme N.E. corner of sheet is another geological fault like Molilele Pali, but
not so large and steep. North of this the land is high, more steep, and covered
with sparse weeds and grass, while at the sea are high cliffs which extend
as far as Honuapo Landing.

There is but little at Kaualu: a large ranch house, the home
of the foreman of the Waiohinu Agricultural and Grazing Co. A private road,
practicable for autos runs up to the main road, joining it about a mile East of
centre of Waiohinu. The bay appears rather shoal, and steamers no longer stop
there for cattle: the inner lagoon can accommodate small boats, though the en-
trance is dry at low water.

On chart 4115 is shown a hill at sta. Kupaepae: there is no
hill station is marked with a terraced cairn about 12 ft. high, painted white.
The S. E. coast is the weather side because of the N. E. tradewinds which are blowing more or less steadily the greater part of the year; in consequence considerable swell is encountered, and the surf makes landing a matter of much difficulty, if possible at all. South Point, however, offers a lee, and smooth water. I do not know the nature of the anchorage below the cliffs, but it is certainly not shoal.

Between December and March there is liable to be heavy weather from the S. and S. W. Though the wind does not often reach the coast, enormous swells roll in, to the discomfiture of the hundreds of fishermen and the disarrangement of steamer schedules, all along the west coast; but for by far the greater part of the time the ocean is smooth and landings can be made with ease from South Point to Mahukona.

Soline R. Hand
Asst., U. S. C. & G. S.

--- Descriptive Report, sheet "K", Hawaii, Soline R. Hand ---
LIST of POSITIONS.

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