

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

E KŪ MAKANI: A “LIFE HISTORY” STORY OF KAHUNA LĀ’AU LAPA’AU LEVON OHAI

by

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Friday, November 30, 2012

12:00 pm

KAMA 201

This is an MA thesis plan A presentation which focuses on a “life history” of the late Levon Ammon Ohai through his teachings and interviews: Levon was a retired DOE teacher from Kaua’i and also a lā’au lapa’au instructor at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa. This thesis presentation acknowledges the issue of a gap in knowledge on Levon Ohai with special attention to the connections of what he believed in and the results of what he did with those beliefs. A product of this endeavor is this presentation which emphasizes: the sense of urgency to document the mo’olelo of a kahuna lā’au lapa’au; the incongruent value systems experienced between Levon's lā’au lapa’au culture and western institutions; the value of empirical medicine; and his love for Akua. These themes that illuminated themselves validate the importance of documenting life histories for future generations and the field of Hawaiian biographical research.