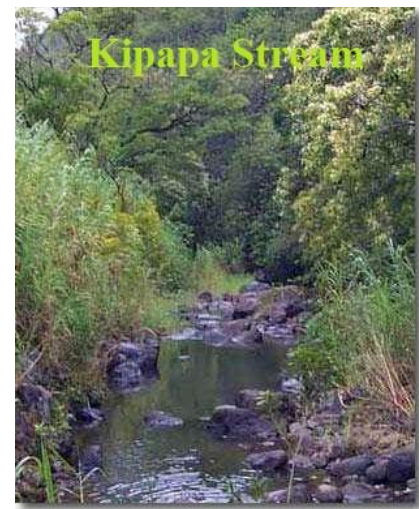


Kipapa Gulch



Kipapa Stream



My Drift

Title: Kipapa Gulch

Written by: Jerry D. Petersen

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Did you know that the island of Oahu in Hawaii is one of the most haunted places in the United States? There are Night Marchers, Ghosts, and strange things happening everywhere! One of the most haunted areas on the island is Kipapa Gulch.



Ko'olau Mountain Range

This mountain range runs the entire length of Oahu from north to south on the eastern side of the island. It is the windward shield of a dormant volcano.



The Island of Oahu

Kipapa Gulch starts from the Ko'olau Mountain Range and runs all the way to Pearl Harbor. It roughly follows the red line I drew.

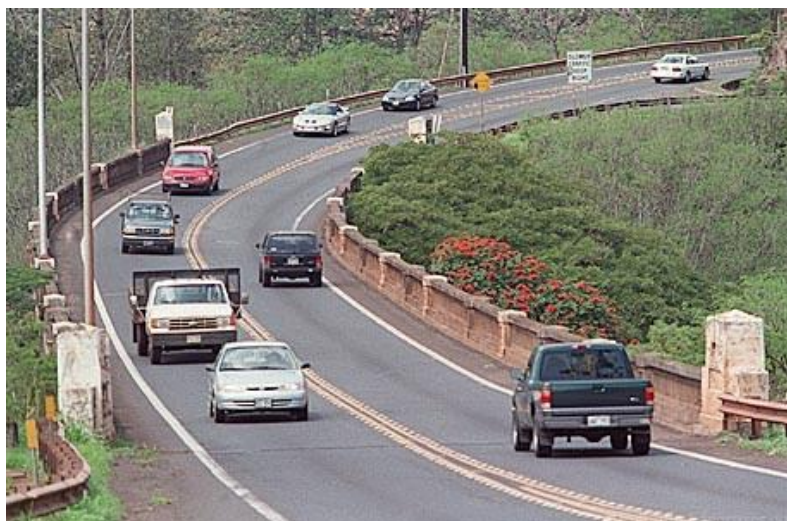


Kipapa Gulch is full of Trees and other Vegetation.

Kipapa Gulch is located near Mililani Town and Waipio in central Oahu. It is haunted by the spirits of Hawaiian warriors that lost their lives in a bitter battle that was fought here in the 15th century. It was said that when it finally ended, the sides of the gulch were covered top to bottom with bodies. These fallen warriors might explain the many sightings of Night Marchers there.

The Roosevelt Bridge

The first major bridge built over Kipapa Gulch was the Roosevelt Bridge or as most people call it, the Kipapa Stream Bridge. This bridge opened in 1933 and allowed Kamehameha Highway (Route 99) to connect Leeward Oahu to Central Oahu and the North Shore. The bridge is located between Waipio and Mililani Town. Hawaiian Contracting Co. was the builder of this Kipapa Gulch Bridge. This Honolulu firm was owned by Walter F. Dillingham, who was head of the Dillingham family's financial empire.



Roosevelt or Kipapa Stream Bridge

Talk about being haunted – the area under the bridge and Kam Highway on and near the bridge is so haunted that this area is considered dangerous. The bridge that spans the ravine has been the site of numerous head-on freak accidents where many people have died. There are a lot of people who blame these accidents on the "evil" spirits that linger from the Kipapa Gulch battles. Underneath the bridge is an area where the Hawaiian Kupua (Shapeshifter) Kaupe appears from time to time manifesting as a halfman-halfdog standing over 7 feet tall. This Kaupe is a malevolent spirit that calls out to people at night to lure them to their deaths. Residents and motorists have reported hearing the sounds of people crying under the bridge, as well as seeing lights moving down the mountainside, into the gulch. There have been hundreds of reports over the years of vehicles stalling or having tire blowouts on the bridge. As the person is trying to fix their car or change a tire, they can hear voices from below the bridge crying and calling their names. Multiple bodies have been found under the bridge where the exact cause of death is unknown. Scary!



Demon Dog



Lady in White

Demon Dogs

Legend has these Demon Dogs sitting on each of the four end pillars of the bridge. They are looking for people to terrorize or kill. I can confirm that there is something very strange on this bridge. Since living in Mililani, we have had two German Shepherds and four Rottweilers. Every one of these big tough dogs just hated to go over this bridge at night. They would bark, howl, and make such a fuss that we quit taking them over the bridge at night. I think they could see the Demon Dogs! When out for a ride in the truck at night, we would take the long way on the H2 Highway to get to and from Mililani. During the day, there is no problem.

Lady in White

The Lady in White is a spirit said to haunt Kipapa Stream Bridge and the road leading up to Mililani Town. She appears on or near this bridge at night dressed all in white. Sometimes she is just standing there hitchhiking or sometimes she is walking toward Mililani. She has also been spotted with a small white dog. If a driver stops to give her a ride, she will hop into the bed of a pickup or into the back seat of a car. When the driver stops or turns to say something to the lady, she is not there. She just disappears! Well, back in my bowling years, I used to drive home over that bridge on a regular basis. Guess what? I have seen a Lady in White several times. I didn't stop!

The Night Marchers of Kipapa Gulch

The most famous spirits or ghosts in Hawaii are the Night Marchers. It is now time to learn a little Hawaiian history and how the Night Marchers got started in Kipapa Gulch.

Back in the late 1300s, the Hawaiian people on Oahu were starving. They rebelled and killed their chief. They chose another leader named Mailikukahi. He was born in Kukaniloko, a place highly regarded because it was hallowed ground. Mailikukahi became a beloved King. His wise, firm, and judicious government has been compared to England's King Arthur.

He opened schools to educate his people, a privilege once restricted to those of higher status. Mailikukahi abolished human sacrifice. As a religious leader, he built Heiaus, which are temples, where his people could take refuge and be healed when they were sick.



Mailikukahi

He encouraged his people to cultivate the land and raise animals so they could feed themselves. He instated a code of laws that demanded the islands' leaders stop stealing from the people or death would be the penalty. He didn't demand an auhau or tax from the people for they willingly brought the fruit of their labors to him. The people of Oahu now prospered. Word of Mailikukahi's accomplishments spread throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

But jealousy reared its ugly head. The peace and prosperity of Mailikukahi's government intimidated the Chiefs of Maui and the Big Island of Hawaii. They

were worried about his power and influence. Jealous of his successes, they worried it was a threat to the power they held over their own people.

In 1410, they declared war on Mailikukahi's government. These two island chiefs invaded Oahu, landing in Waikiki--they then marched inland. They met Mailikukahi and his men at Kipapa Gulch, where a gruesome battle ensued.



Hawaiian Warriors Battle in Kipapa Gulch for Control of Oahu Island

Mailikukahi and his warriors were able to prevail over these invaders. The bloodshed of the fallen, literally flooded this gulch. The corpses of thousands of warriors that invaded Oahu lay dead. The name Kipapa was given to the area--meaning "paved way"-- or paved with the dead. The two leader's skulls were taken and placed on poles as a reminder to others of their fate if they chose to invade Oahu.

The Hawaiian people believe this bloody battle left behind many restless spirits. They think these fallen warriors haunt the Kipapa Gulch and the surrounding area.

So, is this just a legend or do these spirits haunt this area? Even today, residents and motorists report seeing torches floating through the air--following a path down the mountain to the ocean through this gulch. They appear as ghostly apparitions who carry torches and play drums while they chant. They march in darkness after sunset continuously until just before sunrise.

WARNING: The local legend is that if you encounter one of the Night Marchers and look into his eyes then you too will be doomed to roam the islands in their ranks for all of eternity.



These Hawaiian Spirit Warriors are called the “Night Marchers.”

Mililani H2 Bridge

The first homes in Mililani Town went on sale on June 3, 1968. Before the H2 Bridge was built, the only route to Mililani was via the Roosevelt Bridge. In 1976 they finished the Mililani H2 Bridge, and the Interstate H-2 opened all the way to Wahiawa, cutting travel time from Mililani to Honolulu in half.

We purchased our home in Mililani in 1975 so we only had to use Kam Highway and go across the haunted Roosevelt Bridge for one year.

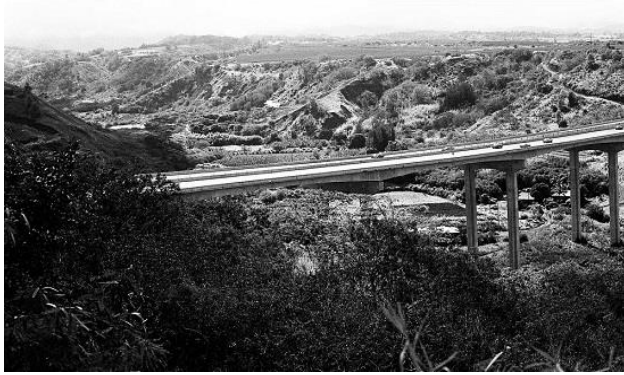
The Mililani H2 Bridge across Kipapa Gulch is one of the longest and highest bridges in the state. Many residents of Central Oahu go back and forth over the Bridge giving little thought to what lies beneath. Some who drive on it don't even know they're crossing a bridge. Below are some pictures of the bridge being built:



Kipapa Gulch before start of bridge construction



Bridge Pillars go up



Mililani H2 Bridge opens in 1976



Mililani H2 Bridge Today



Mililani Town

(You can see the H2 Bridge in the center that spans Kipapa Gulch)

Take another look at the above picture of Mililani Town that is closest to the haunted Kipapa Gulch. There are more than 30 houses sitting on the edge or overlooking the Gulch. Many of these homes are haunted! Some of these homes are sitting vacant because the owners were afraid the Night Marchers or other ghosts would harm their families. They cannot find buyers. A friend of mine owns and lives in one these houses. He says that the Night Marcher pass through his back yard on a regular basis. His family is terrified when this happens. They all hunker down in the front room until the chants and drums stop. Scary!!

The Hawaiian people who think they are in the Night Marcher's path cultivate Ti plants around their homes to provide protection from the Night Marchers and ward off other worrisome evil spirits. When the Night Marchers encounter a home surrounded by Ti plants, they detour and go around until they regain their dedicated path.

Ghost Stories

Most people love a good ghost story. Hawaii is not the only place with ghosts - People have seen or felt ghosts in every state.



I found an interesting article in People Magazine titled, “Ghost Stories from Every State”. If you like this kind of stuff, here is the website URL:

<https://people.com/human-interest/ghost-stories-from-every-state/>

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