

Kou, Kekuanohu, Fort Street:¹

The original name of the Fort Street area was Kou. Where Alakea and Merchant Street meet, the place is named Kauanonoula after the famous chief Kauanonoula. She was said to be fond of playing kōnane there at Kou, where Fort Street is today. Her kōnane board was made from kou that was gathered near Kapi'olani Park. Small squares marked the kōnane board, each with dog teeth inlaid at its corners. From this story, we gain insights into the naming of the area after the hana le'ale'a (pleasurable happenings) of the chiefs playing kōnane, such as Kauanonoula and her kāne (male companion), Honokaupu. This is where the romantic phrase, "Huhuhui aku nā maka i kou," "We will see each other's faces at Kou," has its origins, which speak of the twisting and bent torment of love like the Kou tree.²

During Kamehameha Pai'ea's time, Kou encompassed all of Honolulu, and the area known today as Fort Street was renamed Kekuanohu (scorpionfish back), probably because of the fort's appearance as it was lined with artillery. In 1815, Kamehameha learned of a Russian warship reportedly occupying Kou, so he arranged to send his warriors to confront it. Upon the arrival of Kamehameha's warriors and chiefs, the Russian warship fled and made its way to Kaua'i, where they built a fort named Hipo at Hanalei and Waimea. Kamehameha's war general Kalanimoku, having recognized Honolulu's vulnerability, commanded the building of Kekuanohu to protect Kou from invasion. It is said that women and men from across the island of O'ahu participated in its construction, except for those from Waimea, who were entrusted with delivering timber. Below is an excerpt written by famed historian Samuel Mānaiakalani Kamakau about the Russian invasion and subsequent building of Kekuanohu at Kou.³

Ka Nupepa Kuokoa, Aukake 31, 1867 'ao'ao 1

NO KA RUSINI A ME KA HANA ANA O KA PAPU MA HONOLULU	REGARDING THE RUSSIANS AND THE BUILDING OF THE FORT AT HONOLULU
I ka hoi ana mai o na alii mai Kau mai, mahope iho o ka make ana o Kekuiapoiwa, a i ka makahiki 1815, i ka malama o Novemapa, ku mai la kekahi moku manuwa Rusini, a e hoohaunaele ana ia Oahu e lilo no lakou.	When the chiefs returned from Kā'ū, right after the death of Kekuiapoiwa, in the year 1815, in November, a Russian warship arrived, causing a riot to claim O'ahu for themselves.

¹ Research conducted by Kaiminaauao Kahikina.

² This source is mislabeled and reads January 24, 1910. It should read January 24, 1919. "Kuu Kamaaina i ka ua Kukalahale," *Ka Nupepa Kuokoa*, Ianuari 24, 1919, 3, <https://www.papakilodatabase.com/main/imageserver.php?file=HEN-News-19100124-1.pdf&path=H/A/S/H/9/9/6/3/1/8>. See also, "Kuu Kamaaina i ka ua Kukalahale," *Ka Nupepa Kuokoa*, Ianuari 24, 1910, 3, <https://www.papakilodatabase.com/pdnupepa/?a=d&d=KNK191901012.34&srpos=&dliiv=none&e=-----en-20--1--txt-txIN%7CtxNU%7CtxTR%7CtxTI-Moolelo+Leahi----->.

³ S.M. Kamakau, "No ka Rusini a me ka Hana Ana o ka Papu Ma Honolulu," Aukake 31, 1867, 1, <https://www.papakilodatabase.com/pdnupepa/cgi-bin/pdnupepa?a=d&d=KNK18670831-01.2.2&e=-----en-20--1--txt-txIN%7CtxNU%7CtxTR%7CtxTI-Kekuanohu----->.

<p>A lohe o Kamehameha ma Hawaii, e hoohaunaele kaula ana ka Rusini ma Oahu, alaila, hoouna mai la oia ia Kalanimoku ka Alihikaula nui o ke Aupuni, a hoouna pu mai la no hoi oia i na Kuhina, oia hoi o Kahekili Keeaumoku, Ulumeheihei Hoapili, Haiha Naihe, Palekaluhi Kaikioewa, Pauli Kaoleioku a me ka nui o na alii a me na koa, o ka okaoka a me kekahi poe kaula e ae. Ma ka moku ka nui a ma ka auwaa kekahi. Me keia holo ana, ua kauoha pu mai no hoi o Kamehameha, “Ke holo la oukou i ke kaula me ka haole, a i kaula ole oukou me ka haole, alaila, e haawi aku oukou i ka ai a me ka puua na ka haole[.]”</p>	<p>Kamehameha heard from Hawai‘i that the Russians were committing an act of war on O‘ahu. Then he sent Kalanimoku, the government’s greatest war general, and his ambassadors, Kahekili Keeaumoku, Ulumeheihei Hoapili, Haiha Naihe, Palekaluhi Kaikioewa, Pauli Kaoleioku, and many chiefs and other warriors. Most were on the ship; some were on canoe fleets. During this journey, Kamehameha commanded, “When you go to war with the haole, and should you not fight them, you all will provide food and pork for the haole.”</p>
<p>A hiki ka huakai kaula ma Oahu, ike mai la ka moku Rusini i ka nui o na alii a me na koa, o ka makau honua no ia a holo ana i Kauai, a hana iho la i mau papu ma Hanalei a me Waimea, oia hoi o Hipo.</p>	<p>When the war parade arrived at Oahu, the Russian ship saw the multitude of chiefs and warriors. They were stricken with fear and left for Kaua‘i, where they built a fort at Hanalei and Waimea called Hipo.</p>
<p>A ike iho la o Kalanimoku aohe hoa kaula, a manao iho la oia e hana i Papu kaula no ke awa a me ke kulanakauhale o Honolulu, i mea e pale aku ai i na enemi. Kuahau ia ae la na kane a me na wahine a puni Oahu, e hana ma Honolulu i Papu, a ua kapaia o Kekuanohu. O Waialua wale no ka moku hana ole i ka Papu, no ka hoole no o ke alii o ia moku, oia hoi o Kahekili Keeaumoku. O ka halihali laau ala wale no ka hana a ko Waialua.</p>	<p>Kalanimoku saw that there were no war enemies (the Russians) and thought to build a war fort for the harbor and the town of Honolulu to protect them from enemies. Men and women around the island were summoned to build a fort in Honolulu, and it was called Kekuanohu. Waialua was the only district that did not partake in building the fort because of Chief Kahekili Ke‘eaumoku’s refusal. The only thing the people of Waialua did was transport timber.</p>

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