

HONOLULU HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT
SURVEYED PROPERTY CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

TMK: 96003026

Historic Status: **Evaluated Eligible – as a Rural Historic Landscape District**

Portion of Alignment: **'Ewa Portion**

Resource Name/Historic Name: **Watercress of Hawaii**

Sector: **11 Leeward Community College
Station Sector**

Location: **96-121 Waiawa Road**

Owner: **B P Bishop Estate TR - lease to Watercress of HI**

Station Block:

Date-Original: **unknown**

Source: **Fennel (Dec. 2006) and Tax Office records**

Present Use/Historic Use: **Farm**

Landscape and Architectural Description:

Integrity:

This large property (greater than 35 acres) contains extensive agricultural areas, some partitioned by low walls and natural contours into plots for growing watercress and other crops. The eastern side of the parcel has large rectangular watercress beds, most of them measuring about 40' x 80'. In the western part of the parcel the beds are of various sizes and shapes. The waters of Waiawa Spring and unnamed springs, natural artesian water sources located on the property, are contained and channeled through these beds. Watercress cultivation requires a flowing depth of 3" of high-quality alkaline water. The topography of this parcel also provides the wind protection necessary for this crop. A number of buildings are also located on the property; some are agricultural outbuildings and others residential.

The property retains the historic relationship between the lower agricultural fields and the higher land areas with buildings (along Waiawa Road. The parcel's visual connection with the Pearl Harbor waters of Middle Loch is also intact. Some re-configuration of the fields has occurred, including the construction of rectangular watercress beds in the east portion of the property. The buildings have had numerous undated alterations made to them and do not appear to have sufficient integrity to be considered contributing elements.

Significance:

Criterion "A" – qualifies as a rural historic landscape district which is significant for its association with the history of wetland agriculture in the Waiawa area. This property exemplifies the historical continuity of occupational activities involved with growing crops in flooded fields, from the cultivation of taro, starting in the pre-contact period, through rice and watercress production in recent centuries. Further context study is needed of such landscapes in Hawaii.

