Interview with Albert B. Loebenstein, of Hilo, Hawaii, surveyor and civil engineer, Tuesday, April 11, 1893.

Mr. Blount. What is your business?

Mr. Loebenstein. I take charge of lands belonging to the Government in respect to rents and suggestions I am pleased to give relative to their reservation, whether best to sell them or what disposition.

Q. Will you tell me in whose hands the lands of the islands generally are?
   A. Government lands?
   Q. The whole land system?
   A. The Crown lands, the Government lands. The amounts of Government land is about 873,000 acres and of Crown over 900,000 acres, throughout the group.
   Q. Who owns the residue?
   A. Bishop estate and private parties?
   Q. What is the amount owned by private parties?
   A. I can not say. The report of 1890 will give the figures of that.
   Q. Can you tell me as to the holdings of the Kanaka population?
   A. They are very small indeed.
   Q. Can you give me any figures?
   A. I can not. The tax returns would give that most accurately.
   Q. To whom should I apply for that?
   A. To the minister of finance. I know it is very small, and each year diminishes in amount.
   Q. By leases and sales?
   A. Mostly by mortgages, which foreclose by nonpayment of interest and principal. The Chinese have a large amount of lands which were originally assigned to Kanakas on these islands.
   Q. Have they absolute title?
   A. In most instances they hold by lease.
   Q. They are not lands which belonged to the chiefs?
   A. No; they are lands which come under the head of Kuleanas—small holdings, seldom over 5 acres in extent, and on these islands they are the principal lands which form taro patches and receive irrigation. They are now controlled by the Chinese.
   Q. The Chinese are not owners of sugar plantations, are they?
   A. No; I believe there is but one sugar plantation owned by Chinese, and that is on the island of Molakai. That has since been sold, and now the only plantation interest owned or controlled by Chinese is one on the island of Hawaii, and more particularly the plantation of Pepeekeo, in the district of Hilo, of which one-third of the capital stock is owned by one C. Afong.

Mr. Loebenstein continuing at 11 o’clock Wednesday, April 12.

Mr. Blount. This is a map of Hawaii?

Mr. Loebenstein. Yes.

Q. What do the various colors represent?
   A. The yellow represents land belonging to the Crown, the green that owned by the Government.
   Q. And the remainder?
   A. The remainder represents individual ownership and other ownership, including lands conveyed by the Government, and also Kuleanas,