



Superfund
Redevelopment
Initiative

SITE REDEVELOPMENT PROFILE

Del Monte Corp. (Oahu Plantation) Superfund Site
Kunia, Hawaii



Aerial view of pineapple farms in Hawaii. (Source: Aerial View of Pineapple Farms, Hawaii by Carol M. Highsmith available at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Aerial_view_of_pineapple_farms,_Hawaii_LCCN2010630469.tif. CC BY-SA 3.0 available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)

Site Location: 94-1000 Kunia Road, Kunia, Hawaii 96759

Size: 3,000 acres

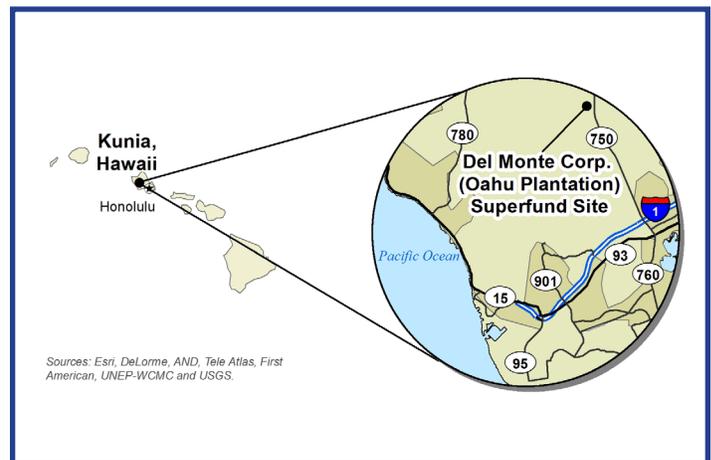
Existing Site Infrastructure: All major types of infrastructure are located on site.

Current Site Uses: The Poamoho portion of the site where Superfund cleanup has been completed supports commercial, agricultural and military reuses.

Use Restrictions: Building construction and groundwater use are restricted on parts of the site.

Surrounding Population: within 0.5 mile, 377 people; within 2.5 miles, 12,877 people; within 4 miles, 63,405 people.

The Del Monte Corporation Superfund site was formerly a 6,000-acre pineapple plantation near Kunia Village in Honolulu County, Hawaii. The Del Monte Corporation grew and processed pineapple on the plantation from about 1946 to 2006. As part of site operations, the Del Monte Corporation used pesticides to control pests that attack pineapple roots. An accidental 500-gallon pesticide spill occurred within about 60 feet of the Kunia drinking water supply well in 1977. The spill led to the discovery of sitewide contamination; years of improper pesticide storage and processing had resulted in contaminated soil and water.



Location of the site in Kunia, Hawaii.

EPA placed the site on the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1994. Remedial actions at the site included the removal of 18,000 tons of contaminated soil, phytoremediation of contaminated groundwater, installation of a vegetated soil cap, and installation of an air stripper and carbon filtration system to address contaminated drinking water. Land use

restrictions prevent activities that may interfere with groundwater extraction, monitoring wells and the soil cap.

The Del Monte Corporation leased the site from the James Campbell Company, the property owners, until the Oahu Plantation ceased operation in 2006.

SITE HISTORY AND REDEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

- 1940s - 2006** - Del Monte Corporation raised pineapples on 6,000 acres in central Oahu. Pesticides were stored, mixed and used on site.
- 1977** - Accidental pesticide spill near the Kunia Well.
- 1980** - Contaminants detected in the Kunia Well.
- 1981 - 1983** - Del Monte started soil and groundwater investigations and cleanup near the Kunia Well.
- 1994** - EPA placed the site on the NPL.
- 1998 - present** - Del Monte used phytoremediation to treat contaminated groundwater.
- 2003** - EPA selected the final remedy for soil and groundwater contamination.
- 2004** - EPA took the 3,000-acre Poamoho part of the site off the NPL.
- 2005** - The Kunia Well Treatment System was installed.
- 2008** - The aquifer remediation system began operating. Del Monte ceased agricultural operations on site.
- 2018** - The delisted portion of the site supports a variety of reuses.

After the plantation closed, the James Campbell Company sold more than half of the land to Kunia Loa Ridge Farmlands, an organization that encourages affordable, small-scale, sustainable farms while reducing soil erosion and improving the quality and quantity of local water. The Kunia Loa Ridge Farmlands resells small plots to farmers who will grow tropical fruits and raise livestock.

EPA took the 3,000-acre Poamoho part of the site off the NPL in 2004. This area supports commercial, agricultural and military reuses. Oils of Aloha moved its headquarters and manufacturing operations to a pre-existing 10,000-square-foot facility at the site in 2011. The company employs about 20 people and makes lotions and beauty products. In 2007, an agricultural company purchased 2,300 acres of the former Oahu Plantation to produce seed corn. The U.S. Army also purchased part of the site property to expand housing for its Schofield Barracks. In 2018, 12 businesses with over 150 employees operated on the site.

Through successful collaboration among EPA, Del Monte Corporation, and new landowners and tenants, the site's remedy remains protective of public health and the environment and site reuses continue to provide amenities and economic opportunities for the community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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In May 2017, EPA established a task force to restore the Superfund program to its rightful place at the center of the Agency's core mission to protect health and the environment.

epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force