

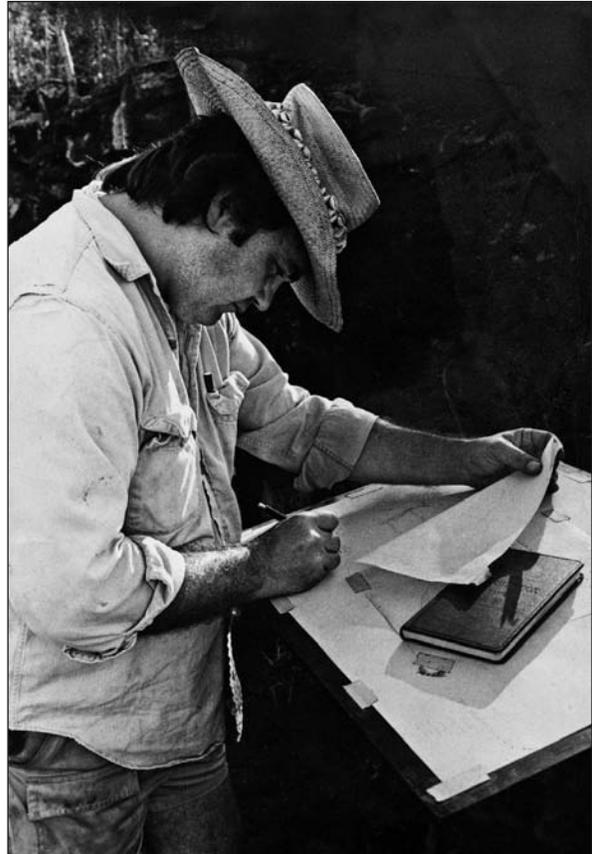
# Obituary

## *Paul Harmer Rosendahl Archaeologist (1944–2012)*

Paul H. Rosendahl passed away on March 19<sup>th</sup> 2012 after a long illness. Paul grew up in Minnesota and earned his B.A. at Dartmouth College in 1966 and his Ph.D. at the University of Hawai‘i, Manoa in 1972. As a graduate student he took a seminar in problems of Pacific archaeology with Yoshi Sinoto and Doug Yen and shifted from cultural anthropology to archaeology. He served as a field assistant at the Manoa Summer Archaeological Field School at Lapakahi under the supervision of Richard Pearson and Roger Green. His dissertation: “Aboriginal Agriculture and Residence Patterns in upland Lapakahi, Island of Hawaii” was over 700 pages long and included scaled and detailed plane table and alidade maps that are still in use today. A summary of that work was later published in the *Society of Hawaiian Archeology Journal*. He also created finely detailed maps of the Upper Makaha Valley on a Bishop Museum project. While at the Bishop Museum, he went to Anuta in the Solomon Islands with Doug Yen and Pat Kirch where they documented contemporary agriculture practices as well as archaeological patterns and features. His attention to detail and proper recording served him well throughout his career and is carried on by those he trained in correct archaeological methods.

Paul left the museum in 1978 and moved to Hilo as contract archaeology (CRM) began to expand in Hawai‘i. He became an affiliate of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Hawai‘i, Hilo and taught courses in introductory archaeology and field methods. His first big project was carried out in cooperation with UH Hilo as an areal excavation and data recovery program at the Kahalu‘u Habitation Cave site in Kona. The precisely recorded materials from that site are still used in teaching and research in the archaeology program at UH Hilo.

Contract archaeology work began to expand rapidly in Hawai‘i and Paul incorporated as Paul H. Rosendahl Inc. (PHRI) in 1981. The firm expanded rapidly and soon became the largest CRM firm in the state. They branched out to Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands and by the 1990s had upwards of 180 employees. PHRI was also involved in the Honokahua site, which became quite controversial and was a stimulus to Hawaiian activism and changes in the State of Hawai‘i burial laws. CRM had become a business in



Hawai‘i, and Paul was also active in the Hawai‘i Island Chamber of Commerce. He was probably the first private employer in CRM to give employees full benefits, and he created pension plans for his permanent office staff. In the 30 year run from 1978 to 2008, when the firm closed, PHRI completed over 2760 CRM projects. These ranged from small scale inventory surveys to large scale excavation and data recovery projects. The reports are now housed in the Hawai‘i Island Section at the Historic Preservation Division office in Hilo.

Credit goes to Pat Kirch, Tom Dye, Peter Mills, Jo Lynn Gunness and others who have shared details of Paul’s life and career. He was a major figure in Hawaiian Archaeology. He is sorely missed by his colleagues, former employees and family.

Craig Severance University of Hawai‘i, Hilo