

On the Possibility of Obtaining Geomagnetic Volcanic Records of the Short-Term Behavior of the Laschamp and Pringle Falls Excursions from the Long Sequence of Kahuku and Ninole Hills, Big Island of Hawaii, USA

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Abstract

The Mauna Loa volcano of the Big Island of Hawaii offers the "ad-hoc" lava flows that have recorded the geomagnetic short-term behavior (*i.e.* excursions) at two key localities such as the younger Kahuku volcanic series (ca. ~41 ka) where 29 flows are exposed for detailed paleomagnetic sampling making up 102 meters of section where the uppermost flow sampled lies directly under the Pahala ash. The second sampling site is the Ninole volcanic series where 25 flows spanning 56 meters of section were also sampled from the northeast and southwest sides of the Kilohana Ridge. The most recent age estimate indicates that the Kahuku flows can correlate well with the transitional/excursional directional results obtained from both volcanic and deepsea sediments of the global record of the Laschamp (ca. ~41 ka calendar years B.P) excursion and the Ninole flows which are associated to the also global Pringle Fall excursion (ca. 211 \pm 13 ka) recorded at the type section.

Keywords

Ninole Hills, Kahuku Ranch, Mauna Loa Volcano, Laschamp, Pringle Falls Excursion

1. Introduction

An improved understanding of the origin of the geomagnetic field, and the process via which it reverses its polarity, is a longstanding goal of in the Earth

Sciences. One of the means by which this goal can be achieved is to examine in detail the temporal variations in geomagnetic field direction and intensity associated with polarity reversals and short polarity excursions or events. One of the more fruitful recent efforts in this field is the utilization of geodynamo models [1]-[10] to test and refine models for geomagnetic field origin and reversal mechanisms, with comparisons made between spatially and temporally robust sets of full-vector (direction and paleointensity) geomagnetic field data. One consequence of these efforts has been the recognition that there is a need for many high quality records of geomagnetic field behavior from a well-distributed set of site locations for a given time interval of geomagnetic field evolution. In the case of short polarity events or excursions, a number of high quality records of paleomagnetic directions, and absolute paleointensities, from a variety of locations, are needed to gain a full understanding of the origin of these geomagnetic field phenomena, and how their behavior compares to the process by which full reversals of the geomagnetic field occur. Such data could ultimately be used to determine if polarity excursions and reversals are similar geomagnetic field phenomena; excursions being aborted reversals, for example [9] [11] [12] [13]—or are a possible manifestations of a different process [14].

While there are many excellent studies of geomagnetic field polarity reversals [13] [15]-[34] there are only very few full-vector studies of short-lived polarity events or excursions. The majority of such data for excursions are from sedimentary rocks, for which only relative paleointensity values can be inferred. Studies of relative paleointensity derived from sedimentary rocks typically find correlations between relative paleointensity lows and geomagnetic field reversals or excursions [35]-[42]. While of great value, there remains considerable uncertainty in the interpretation of relative paleointensity data from sedimentary rocks [43] [44] [45], and because many of these data are obtained from azimuthally-unoriented marine and lacustrine sediment cores, the directional data associated with these records are of relatively uncertain value. An attractive alternative is to obtain directional and paleointensity information from volcanic rocks that have been erupted during polarity excursions. Such volcanic rocks commonly record the geomagnetic field with high fidelity, and the sound theoretical basis for TRM acquisition in these rocks lends to the interpretation of absolute paleointensity data obtained from such igneous rocks [46]. Unfortunately, the stochastic nature of volcanic eruptions and the relatively short duration of the geomagnetic field reversal/event process, combine to make volcanic records of geomagnetic field behavior during reversals or excursions rare. There are relatively few studies that document both directional and paleointensity records from polarity excursions [42] [47]-[53].

Most of these studies document separate excursions (ranging in age from the Eocene to the Pliestocene), so there is clearly a need for additional studies of particular excursions recorded in several widely spaced geographic areas. Of the short polarity excursions, the Blake and Pringle Falls Events are among the better recognized and studied, but they remain somewhat enigmatic. The age of the

Blake event is generally reported as 110 ka [23] based on studies of sediment cores from many parts of the world. In igneous rocks, partial records of the Blake event (usually a single cooling unit) have been recorded in China [54] and in tephras from Japan [55]. Of these studies, K/Ar ages provide age estimates of 123 ± 7 ka [54] and an older age of 141 ka for the Aso-2 tephra [55]. The nature of the geomagnetic field during the Blake event is complex and somewhat controversial. Some studies have documented two [22] [31] [56] [57] excursion "pulses", spanning 10 - 50 ky, while in some sedimentary sequences the Blake event is absent in the directional records, and is at times only manifest by a low in relative paleointensity values (see for example [58]. The Pringle Falls event [40] [57] is now very well dated (211 ± 13 ka) using ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar methods on volcanic rocks [59]—that recorded this event therefore here we present a potential record from lavas at Ninole Hills.

The second record is potentially correlatable with the Laschamp (ca. ~41,000 years B.P.) that presumably has been registerd by the Kahuku basalts, Mauna Loa volcano. The main goal of this manuscript is an attempt to establish a possible correlation to the natural remanent magnetization (NRM) results of the declination and inclination records of the Mauna Loa volcano obtained by [60] with the records of the type section of the Pringle Falls excursion at the Deschutes river, Oregon and the directional results of the global Laschamp excursion both from deep-sea sediments and volcanic rocks.

2. Geology of the Ninole and Kahuku Basalt

There are two sets of older basalts that are found in the SE portion of Hawai'i; the Ninole Basalts, and the Kahuku Basalts. The Ninole Basalts crop out in several places within the Ninole Hills, on the SE flank of Mauna Loa volcano (**Figure 1**). The Ninole Hills are a highly dissected portion of Mauna Loa, and have long been considered a local geomorphic anomaly, comprised of some of the oldest rocks on the island of Hawai'i [61].

Older work, such as 72-Stearns and Macdonald (1946) speculated that the Ninole Basalts were the product of an older vent/rift system, separate from Mauna Loa, in this area. Additional recent mapping [62] and geochemistry and geochronology [63] have concluded that the Ninole Basalts represent the remnants of an older phase of Mauna Loa construction, part of which subsequently collapsed via a large gravitational slide, at ca 90 - 100 ka [64] [65]. The Kahuku Basalts occur in three areas; a thin strip of flows at Kahuku Pali, south of the town of Kahuku and extending to the southernmost coast of Hawai'i, a thin coastal outcrop belt at Maniania Pali on the SE coast, and an outcrop belt of flows near Waiohinu (Figure 1). The age of the Ninole Basalt is based on K-Ar data from [63] with samples collected from Makanau Hill, Pu'u Enuhe, and Hilea Gulch. Although complicated by some alteration, and low K values, [63] obtained an age of 120 ± 28 ka for 3 samples in the middle portion of the Ninole section, and concluded that an age range from 100 to 200 ka is the best estimate for the age of these rocks, with an upper limit of perhaps 0.3 Ma [63]. It should



Figure 1. Geological Map of SE portion of Mauna Loa, Hawai'i, modified from Lipman and Swenson, 1984. 1(A) Ninole Area; outcrops of the 100 to ~300 ka Ninole Basalt are highlighted. DC-65 notes the section on the NE and SW slopes of Kaiholena Ridge that were sampled [60]; other areas noted are proposed sample collection areas described in the proposal. 1(B) Kahuku/South Point area; outcrops of the >31 ka Kahuku Basalt are highlighted. DC-65 notes the area on Kahuku Pali sampled by Doell and Cox, 1965 [60].

also be noted that, based on similar problems with age determinations from other Hawai'ian basalts, these ages were considered by [64] to represent minimum ages. [64] reports attempt to determine the age of the Kahuku Basalts using K-Ar; these results were inconclusive (41 \pm 65 and 37 \pm 62 ka for two samples from a single flow collected at Kahuku Pali).

The Ninole Basalts are thin flows of pahoehoe and aa, with occasional interspersed basaltic tuff layers, and are generally a light grey in color [63]. These basalts underlie the \sim 30 ka Pahala Ash, and are exposed over an elevation range of \sim 600 meters. The base of the Ninole Basalt is not exposed, so their total thickness is unknown. Outcrops of Ninole Basalt form steeply-sloped hills in the area. These hills are surrounded in many places by younger (post Pahala Ash) Mauna Loa flows of Kau Basalt. The Ninole Basalt is variably weathered and in most places is poorly exposed, but good exposures (sometimes requiring some machete work) can be found in road cuts and in portions of the dry stream beds of the Hilea Gulch. The newer ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar results constrain the eruption of the Ninole

Basalts from 227 to 108 ka providing maximum estimates on the timing of the Ka Lae and South Kona landslides [66].

The Kahuku Basalt is chemically and texturally similar to the younger Kau Basalt, and is exposed over a ~200 m elevation range. The statigraphic relationship between these two units is unclear; 74-Lipman *et al.*, 1990 have suggested that the Kahuku and Ninole Basalts may be similar or coeval in age. Other workers [60] have suggested that the Kahuku Basalt may be somewhat younger than the Ninole Basalt. [63] that further mapping and geochemical analyses of these basalts are needed in order to fully resolve the stratigraphy of these basalts, and their relationship to other Mauna Loa flows. A most ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar radiometric age has been determined from the Mauna Loa volcano from the Kahuku landslide scarp cutting Mauna Loa's submarine southwest rift zone, and from lavas in a deeper section of the rift.

3. The Pringle Falls Lacustrine Geomagnetic Record

The original record of the Pringle Falls excursion at the sedimentary lake sequence sampled originally by [56] [57] as well as well as the subsequent re-visited sites sampled for this study, including the two additional profiles [40], that are part of an extensive pre-historic fluvial and lacustrine system formed during the last million years located east of the Cascade mountains.

The discovery of the Pringle Falls took place in the late '80s and at the beginning of the identification of the excursion research it was mistakenly identified as the Blake polarity episode [56] [57]. It was after the identification of the characteristic geomagnetic features recorded by the declination and inclination records and the research work done about the chronostratigraphy, geochronology and tephrachronology that documented two sites at Pringle Falls along the Deschutes river in Oregon (see **Figure 2**) that the excursion was officially described and established as a geomagnetic feature [57]. Subsequent research work was performed to correlate the directional geomagnetic signal from additional profiles drilled (~837 samples) along the Deschutes river spaced along 5 kms for their detailed directional geomagnetic signature. Thus far, the rock magnetic characterization as well as the entire directional analyses (*i.e.* declination and inclination) of the geomagnetic paleosignal of four widely spaced profiles has been completed and published recently [40] [67].

There is a published record of the Pringle Falls "aborted reversal" that has been dated by means of 40 Ar/ 39 Ar yielding an age of 211 ± 13 ka [57] and correlated along a 5 km segment in the Deschutes river in Oregon. A full vector description of the excursion by means of directions [40] Relative Paleointensity (RPI) measurements that will be part of the geomagnetic polarity time global scale [67] have been published as well.

Summary of the Directional Results (*i.e.* Declination and Inclination)

The rock magnetic tests performed on the Pringle Falls samples such as rema-

nent magnetization of the four profiles show an excellent magnetostratigraphic correlation of the main excursional features labeled as A, B and C present on the four records shown in **Figure 2** and have been published relatively recently [40]. The directional results have been converted to virtual geomagnetic poles





Figure 2. (a) Magnetostratigraphic correlation of the directional (*i.e.* declination, inclination and intensity of magnetization) behavior of four profiles recorded at the Pringle Falls site, Oregon. The red arrows show the characteristic inclination geomagnetic features A, B and C of the Pringle Falls excursion [40]. (b) Virtual Geomagnetic Pole paths of four widely separated profiles recovered from the type locality of Pringle Falls Oregon (c) Virtual Geomagnetic Poles (VGPs) of the Pringle Falls excursion showing the "geomagnetic signature" that characterize the excursion at Pringle Falls, Oregon [40].

(VGP's) in order to compare the excursional characteristics of the profiles. Figure 2 shows the characteristic geomagnetic signature of the excursion and the results of only one site are displayed as "snap shots" of the aborted reversal paths as an initial/oldest and early phase corresponding to the geomagnetic feature "A" (see Figure 2(a)) and the subsequent intermediate middle phase "B" and the final and youngest phase "C". The arrows indicate the motion of the individual VGPs along the excursional paths showing the characteristic loops that define the unique geomagnetic signature of the Pringle Falls excursion at the type section. In order to prove that the VGP magnetic signature has been recorded by the four sites Figure 2(b) shows the paths derived from the individual profiles and the intrabasinal correlation of the signature. As a result of the VGP correlation paths one can conclude that the paths are highly internally correlated, consistent showing very distinct clockwise loops traveling from high northern latitudes over the eastern part of the North American continent and the North Atlantic to South America with a fast motion to high southern latitudes and a subsequent return to high northern latitudes across the Pacific and over Kamchatka associated with the initial phase of the excursion, which corresponds to geomagnetic feature A (**Figure 2(c)**). The other two geomagnetic features, such as B and C, (**Figure 2(c)**) corresponding to the middle and late stages of the evolution of the excursional field, have their own looping indicating a complex nondipolar behavior of the excursional field [40].

4. The Global Excursion of Laschamp (ca. ~41 ka B.P.)

As commented and published recently by [68] Channell et al. (2020) the most thoroughly documented magnetic excursion is undoubtedly the Laschamp excursion at ~41 ka with aberrant magnetic directions that have sub-millennial duration (see reviews of [69] and [70]). Volcanic rocks close to the village of Laschamps in the Chaîne des Puys region of the Massif Central (France) provided the first credible record of any excursion [71], supported by subsequent studies in the same region (e.g., [50] [69] [72] [73] [74]. [70] reviewed volcanic records of the Laschamp excursion that are known from the Olby, La Louchadiere, and Laschamp basalt flows in Chaîne des Puys, as well as the ocurrences in New Zealand in the McLennan's Hill basalt flow of the Auckland Volcanic Field and from Mt. Ruapehu [75]. The excursion may be manifest in Hawaiian lavas ([76] although these lavas have not yielded precise ages using ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar or other methods. More recently, the excursion has been recorded in sediments from Lake Pupuke, New Zealand [76] and Lake Van, Turkey [77]. Marine records of the Laschamp excursion are numerous (Figure 3). There are now at least a dozen sedimentary records of Laschamp from the North Atlantic (e.g., [78]-[85]), in addition to records from the Gulf of Mexico [79] the Black Sea [86], the equatorial western Pacific ([87] Yamazaki and Ioka, 1994; [88]). These occurrences are supported by a handful of sites in the southern oceans including records off southern Chile [34] [89], from the South Atlantic [90] [91] [92] and from the southern Indian Ocean [93]. Some records of the Laschamp excursion are tied to ice-core chronologies indicating that the excursion correlates to Greenland Stadial (GS) 10 at \sim 41 ka with an estimated duration of less than 1 kyr ([78] [89] [91]. The volcanic records of the Laschamp from Chaîne des Puys and the Auckland Volcanic field allow the integration of ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar, K-Ar, and UeTh dating results [69] [73] [74] to yield a weighted mean age of 40.7 ± 0.9 ka [70]. Several dozen sedimentary records of the Laschamp excursion place the excursion at ~41 ka, and the record in a speleothem from Missouri dated using UeTh methods yielded an age span of 42.25e39.70 ka for the directional excursion with the main phase at 41.10 ± 0.35 ka [94]. Available records provide an unequivocal



case for the existence of the Laschamp excursion at \sim 41 ka with a duration <1 kyr [68].

Figure 3. Left diagram shows the paleomagnetic secular variation and relative paleointensity (small dots are original data, large dots are 3-point running average) records from Blake Outer Ridge core JPC14 for the time interval of the Laschamp excursion (upper left diagram) and from the Bermuda Rise core CH89-9P for the same time interval of the Laschamp excursion. Notice the very distinctive declination, inclination and relative paleointensity (RPI) geomagnetic figures at about ~41,000 years B.P. that characterize the Laschamp excursion. Right side diagram shows the virtual geomagnetic (VGP) paths associated with the Laschamp excursion records from JPV14 and CH89-9P. The individual VGPs of the European Laschamp excursion lavas are shown for comparison. Taken from [81].

Ninole Hills experimental paleomagnetic results Prior and Preliminary Paleomagnetic Data

[60] reported a set of paleomagnetic and rock magnetic results from portions of both the Ninole and Kahuku Basalt sections. For the Ninole Basalts a section of 25 flows (56 m of section) were sampled on the NE and SW slopes of Kaiholena Ridge (Figure 1(A)). For the Kahuku Basalts 29 flows (100 m of section) were sampled at Kahuku Pali (Figure 1(B)). For all sites 4 to 10 oriented samples were collected. They performed step-wise alternating field demagnetization experiments on a subset of samples, using demagnetization steps of 2.5, 5, 10, 20, 40, and 80 mT, in order to evaluate the "magnetic stability" of these rocks. Although their demagnetization experiments indicated significant loss of NRM intensity (median destructive fields from their data range from 20 to >40 mT), [60] found that no significant change in directions or scatter of site mean direction occurred following demagnetization, and so they reported mean directions for each flow based on the NRM directions.

Site mean inclinations of the Ninole and Kahuku Basalts, as a function of position in stratigraphic section (Figure 4) have several intervals of either shallow negative or shallow positive inclinations. Poles calculated from the shallow-inclination flows have VGP latitudes of ~65, and although are not fully reversed are consistent with excursions or events. Based on the age of the Ninole Basalts [63], the negative-inclinations between 10 and 20 m in the [60] section may be a record of the Blake Event. The set of shallow inclinations found between 10 and 35 meters in the Kahuku Basalts may also represent the Blake Event (if the Ninole and Kahuku Basalts are coeval), or this interval could possibly (based on its position immediately below the 31 ka Pahala Ash) correspond to the Laschamp Event. Alternatively, if the ages of these rocks are on the older end of their inferred age, one or more of these excursions may be related to the Pringle Falls [59].

The data from the Ninole and Kahuku Basalts are similar to the shallow inclinations obtained from 0 - 400 ka rocks sampled in the HSDP hole [95] [96]. Both [95] for three polarity events in the 0 - 400 ka portion of the HSDP pilot hole; the A-associated with the Laschamp, B-associated with the Blake, and C—associated with the Pringle Falls (see Figure 3 of the HSDP publication in [95]). [96] obtained paleointensity data from the same drill core samples; however due to constraints on the available material were unable to work with any samples from excursion B (Blake); they did find lower paleointensity values associated with the single flows that record excursions A (Lachamp) and C (Pringle Falls). Due to the unoriented nature of these cores (and the lack of samples from excursion B for paleointensity work), a full-vector record of these polarity events is not possible. Therefore, although the detailed paleomagnetic, rock magnetic, and paleointensity results from the HSDP holes ([95] [96]) form a valuable set of geomagnetic field data, the simple fact that these samples are azimuthally unoriented makes their significance of somewhat lesser value, especially for assessing VGP behavior associated with polarity transitions or events (Figure 5).



Figure 4. Declination and Inclination versus stratigraphic positions for lavas of the Ninole and Kahuku volcanic series. AD is the axial dipole field values and P, present (inclined dipole) field values Taken from [70].



Figure 5. Site mean NRM inclinations, vs. depth below top of sampled sections, for Ninole Basalt (left plot) and Kahuku Basalt (right plot), from Doell and Cox, 1965. The top of the Ninole section is at an unknown (but stratigraphically short, based on map relationships) level below the Pahala Ash. The top of the Kahuku Basalt section occurs immediately below the Pahala Ash. Note the shallow, and upward, inclinations in the Ninole Basalt, and the very shallow inclinations in the Kahuku Basalts. For each site, 4 - 10 samples were measured [60].

Available rock magnetic data for the Ninole and Kahuku Basalts include thermomagnetic (moment vs. temperature) experiments from [60].

Most samples from the Ninole (7/13 flows) and Kahuku (8/12 flows) Basalts had reversible heating and cooling results, with single inflection points, indicating Curie temperatures between 500°C and 550°C. They interpreted these data

to indicate the presence of low-Ti magnetite as the primary magnetic minerals in these samples. Other Ninole and Kahuku samples had either distributed thermomagnetic curves (3/13, and 4/12), or curves that displayed marked irreversibility upon cooling (3/13, and 0/12).

In order to better understand the suitability of the Ninole and Kahuku Basalts for paleomagnetic and paleointensity experiments, we conducted preliminary field work during March, 2006. Three sites were collected from the Ninole and Kahuku Basalts, with 7 - 10 samples obtained from each site. Access was good for the most part, and a geological reconnaissance of these areas determined that, while in places obscured by heavy vegetation, a great many individual lava flows are available for sampling in these sections. As described in [63], the best outcrops are found along farm access roads that criss-cross the Ninole Hills, and in some dry stream beds. Coastal outcrops of the Kahuku Basalt were also visited, and found to be of good quality for additional paleomagnetic sampling.

Our pilot study samples, measured at both at SOEST-HIGP of the University of Hawai'i, and at Western Washington University, indicate that straight-forward, well-defined magnetization components can be obtained from these rocks using either alternating field or thermal demagnetization (**Figure 6**). Although no reverse-polarity or transitional directions were obtained by our very limited pilot study, these data do demonstrate that the Ninole and Kahuku Basalts are good recorders of the geomagnetic field, and thus merit further study.

We also conducted some rock-magnetic experiments on these samples, in order to assess their suitability for more detailed paleointensity studies. Although there is no easy method to guarantee the success of these techniques, being able to demonstrate that the rocks in question have a high proportion of single-domain (SD) magnetic grains, and have simple and reversible thermomagnetic behavior does suggest that such samples should be good candidates for further paleointensity studies. Magnetic hysteresis and thermomagnetic curves were determined using the Variable Field Translation Balance (VFTB) at HIGP; or the Vibrating Sample Magnetometer (VSM) at WWU. The hysteresis results are symmetrical (Figure 7(a)), suggesting a simple magnetic mineralogy, and standard hysteresis parameters analyzed using a standard [97] plot indicate that the magnetic domain state is an admixture of SD and larger MD grains, and plots in the PSD field of the Day-type diagram (Figure 7(b)).

Our thermomagnetic experiments, conducted with both the VFTB and VSM, are similar to those reported by [60] Doell and Cox, 1965, for these rocks. Relatively simple, reversible, thermomagnetic curves are obtained for most samples (**Figure 8**), with Curie temperatures between 500°C and 530°C. These results clearly show that the magnetic mineralogy of these samples likely consists of low-Ti magnetites. Collectively, our preliminary paleomagnetic and rock-magnetic data show that the Ninole and Kahuku Basalts are excellent recorders of the geomagnetic field, and that they will most likely yield a significant number of high-quality paleointensity results if the Thellier-Coe experiments are performed on the lavas in question.

5. Discussion

Based on the geomagnetic results obtained thus far from the published Ninole and Kahuku Basalts, and prior work on many other Hawai'ian rocks as part of other studies, one can say that a set of very high quality paleomagnetic data spanning at least one (and possibly more) geomagnetic polarity excursions have been obtained as part of this research.



Figure 6. Example orthogonal vector plots depicting the results of alternating-field (left), and thermal (right) demagnetization experiments on Ninole Basalt samples. All samples collected from three sites for the preliminary study have straightforward and well defined components of magnetization.



Figure 7. (a) Example hysteresis loop of Ninole Basalt sample, (b) Modified Day-type plot, showing hysteresis parameters for admixtures of SD + MD, and SD + SPM magnetites (modified from [98] Dunlop, 2002). The results for the Ninole Basalts plot in the PSD field, representing either true PSD behavior, or an admixture containing 20% to 50% SD magnetite.



Figure 8. Example thermomagnetic curve for Ninole Basalt. Data obtained from the HIGP VFTB. This sample, as well as other samples analyzed, has simple thermomagnetic behavior, with Curie temperatures ranging from 515 to 530 C. The samples also have very good reversibility upon cooling, indicating little alteration of the magnetic mineralogy during heating and cooling experiments.



Figure 9. Virtual geomagnetic poles (VGPs) corresponding to the Kahuku and Ninole Hills volcanic series.

6. Conclusions

The rock magnetic experiments along with the NRM studies conducted by [60]

demonstrate the high magnetic stability of both the Ninole and Kahuku basalts indicating the excellent reliability of both directional (*i.e.* declination and inclination) records.

Several of the Ninole and Kahuku Basalt flows span a geomagnetic field excursion (Figure 4 and Figure 5), and thus a combined paleomagnetic/paleointensity study of these flows will potentially yield one of the highest-resolution recordings spanning a polarity event in the future when absolute paleointensity experiments will be performed. Based on the existing age and stratigraphic relationships of both volcanic sections, the excursion found in the Ninole Basalts can be tentatively identified as the Pringle Falls excursion (ca. $\sim 211 \pm 13$ ka). As can be seen from the magnetostratigraphic work published by [60] Doell and Cox, (1965) shown in Figure 4 and Figure 5 both the declination and inclination features can be correlated to features C and perhaps B of the Pringle Falls excursion depicted in Figure 2. The same can be observed from the magnetostratigraphy diagram of the Kahuku volcanic recorded of Figure 4. There is a very sharp drop of the inclination of the top part of the younger Kahuku section that in principle could be related to the Laschamp excursion (ca. \sim 41,000 B.P), see Figure 3. The virtual geomagnetic pole paths of both excursional records were calculated and the results are shown (see Figure 9).

The diagrams of the calculated VGPs show poles of both excursions (Laschamp and Pringle Falls) but both depict perhaps portions of truncated excursions since the VGPs are within the 62 to 90 degrees in latitude, see **Figure 9**.

The other unlikely possible interpretation of the Kahuku and Ninole hills basaltic flows is that the Kahuku flow corresponds to the Mono Lake excursion (ca. \sim 32.0 ± 2 ka) and Blake excursion (ca. 114 ± 1 ka to 120 ± 12 la), Channell *et al.*, (2020).

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Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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