

WIND POWER

Ka Lae, South Point,
where those who would be ancestors
first landed.

Horizon curved all around
enormous mountain behind.

Cloud pictures in shades of white,
gray, blue, almost green,
and later pink, orange, lavender,
dripping off a blood red sun.

Kama'oa Wind Farm:
thirty-seven (or is it fifty seven?)
Mitsubishi windmills,
each with three vanes
like small airplane wings.

Towering structures
in three even rows
make the moans of Wind itself:
a complex, ever varying growl.

Each windmill its own voice
joined in unearthly chords,
with subtle variations
because the wind, of course,
is not a steady stream —
although, they say,
“here, wind is always.”

These windmills must go,
the authorities announced,
because they don't compete with oil.

The only pollution these vanes create
is but the wind's rhythm, amplified.
The wind is always there:
endless, and what's more, free!

We, lately come, do not want
to be ancestors:
the books must balance, NOW

robert wolff © 1990

Ka Lae (South Point) is the southern most tip of the island called Hawai'i; also the southern most point of the United States. Tradition has it that it is here that the first people landed after a long voyage in large double canoes from islands in the South Pacific, as far south of the Equator as Hawai'i is north of it.

The windmills, by the way, were shut down but not dismantled.
Now, in 2005, work is done to rehabilitate them, so that they can “harvest” wind power again!