

# Kaloko-Honokohau

National Historical Park  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## Welcome



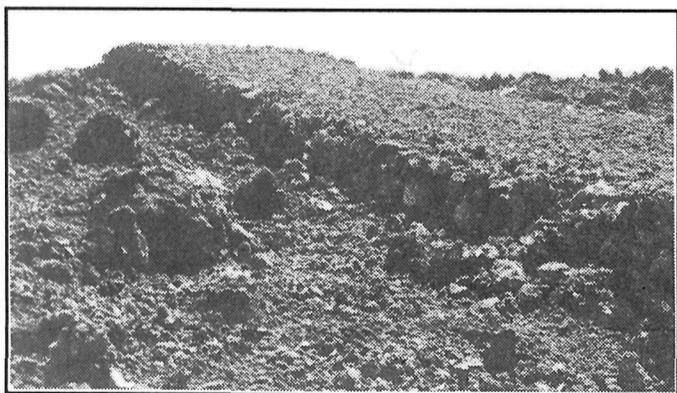
Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park was established by Congress on November 10, 1978. The purpose of the park is to preserve, interpret, and perpetuate traditional native Hawaiian activities and culture, and to demonstrate historic land use patterns.

## PARK RESOURCES

Kaloko-Honokohau is situated along the Kona coast of the island of Hawaii in an area of barren and rugged lava, much sunshine, and warm temperatures. At first glance the landscape appears unsuitable for human habitation and yet, long ago, the Hawaiian people built a thriving settlement here. This settlement was to last for hundreds of years, until well into the 19th century when Western culture brought an end to the Hawaiian way of life. The national significance of the Hawaiian cultural remains found here was recognized in 1962 when the Honokohau Settlement was declared a national historic landmark. In 1966, the landmark was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The most impressive evidence of Hawaiian settlement here is the man-made Kaloko and 'Aimakapa' fishponds and the 'Ai'opio fishtrap. Kaloko fish pond, with its massive man-made seawall, provides an excellent example of the engineering skill of the ancient Hawaiians. There are also several *heiau* (Hawaiian temples) located in the park. The most prominent are Makaopi'o and Pu'uoina. Here also is an example of a *holua*, stone slides built for the recreation of Hawaiian royalty, the *ali'i*.

A park resource with much historical significance is the Mamalahoa Trail, built between 1836 and 1855 and also known as the King's Highway. The nearly one mile segment in the park is a small portion of the trail that once extended around much of the island of Hawaii.



This unusually broad *holua* slide was probably designed to be used by two people simultaneously. The level runway at the head is about 100 feet long and the paved slope is about 150 feet long. The runway is perfectly preserved, but the lower part of the slope has been destroyed.

Kaloko-Honokohau contains many Hawaiian grave sites. These are sacred grounds; the ancient Hawaiians believed that their deceased ancestors returned in the form of an *'aumakua*, or family god, to guide the living members of the family. The park contains many other sites of significance to Hawaiians, including house platforms, fishing shrines, canoe landings, and petroglyphs (ancient rock carvings). To date, more than 200 archeological sites have been recorded in the park and 200 more have been noted. But, more important for Hawaiians, Kaloko-Honokohau represents a place where their ancestors once lived, died, and are buried, and is therefore invaluable to their heritage.

The fishponds of Kaloko-Honokohau are also important because they are home to many kinds of waterbirds. Of major significance are the *ae'o*, the Hawaiian black-necked stilt, the *'alae ke'oke'o*, the Hawaiian coot, and the *koloa*, the Hawaiian duck. The coot and the duck are endemic to Hawaii -- that is, they are found nowhere else. All three waterbirds are officially listed as endangered species and protected under Federal law.



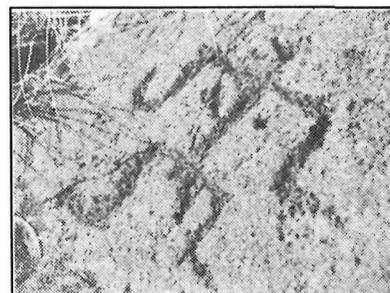
The Hawaiian black-necked stilt, the *ae'o*, feeds and likely nests at 'Aimakapa and also Kaloko. Once a major source of food supply to the ancient Hawaiians, the pond and the adjacent marshy area now provide one of the very few wetland habitats on the island of Hawaii.

Within the past decade Kaloko fishpond has been invaded by the non-native plant, red mangrove. The spread of this alien plant has resulted in the fishpond no longer being suitable habitat for waterbirds, including the three endangered species. The National Park Service is in the process of removing the mangrove in and around Kaloko to restore this scarce wetland habitat and prevent the plant from spreading to other parts of the park.

Other important park resources consist of many small fresh-water to brackish ponds and pools. Called anchialine ponds, each has its own extraordinary biota, including endemic invertebrate species.

The park also contains the offshore waters of Honokohau Bay. The marine life here is particularly abundant because of the presence of a shallow inshore area -- an unusual situation in west Hawaii. Reefs and shallows provided food sources which historically supplemented inland agricultural produce and established a balanced diet for ancient Hawaiians.

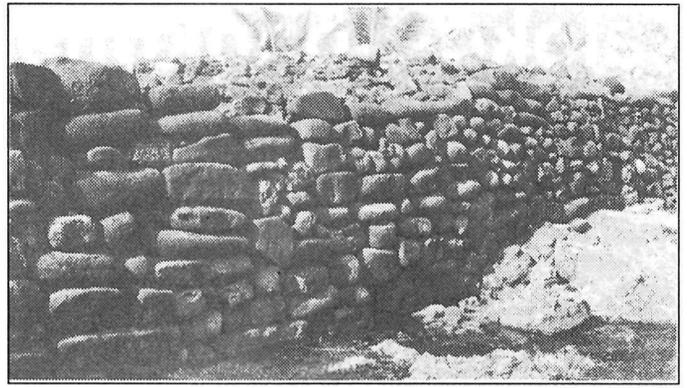
One of the many examples of Hawaiian petroglyphs found in the park. This one appears to be the figure of a man with a fishing hook.



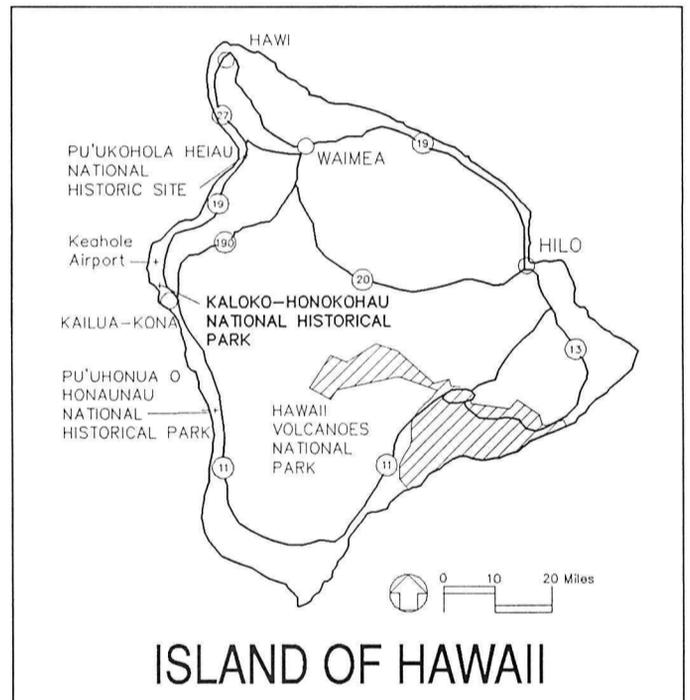
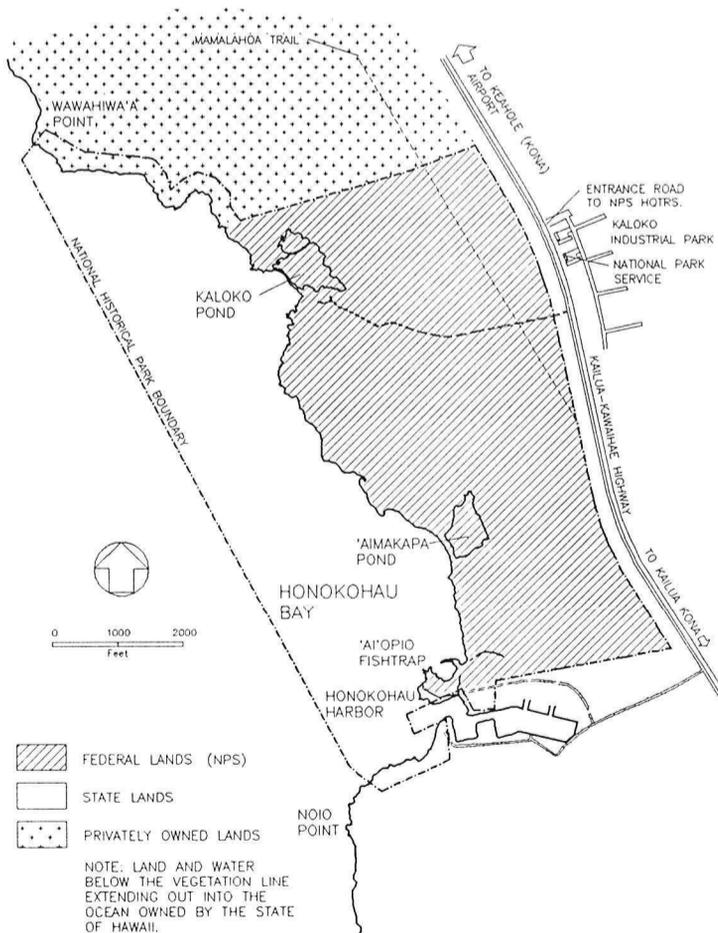
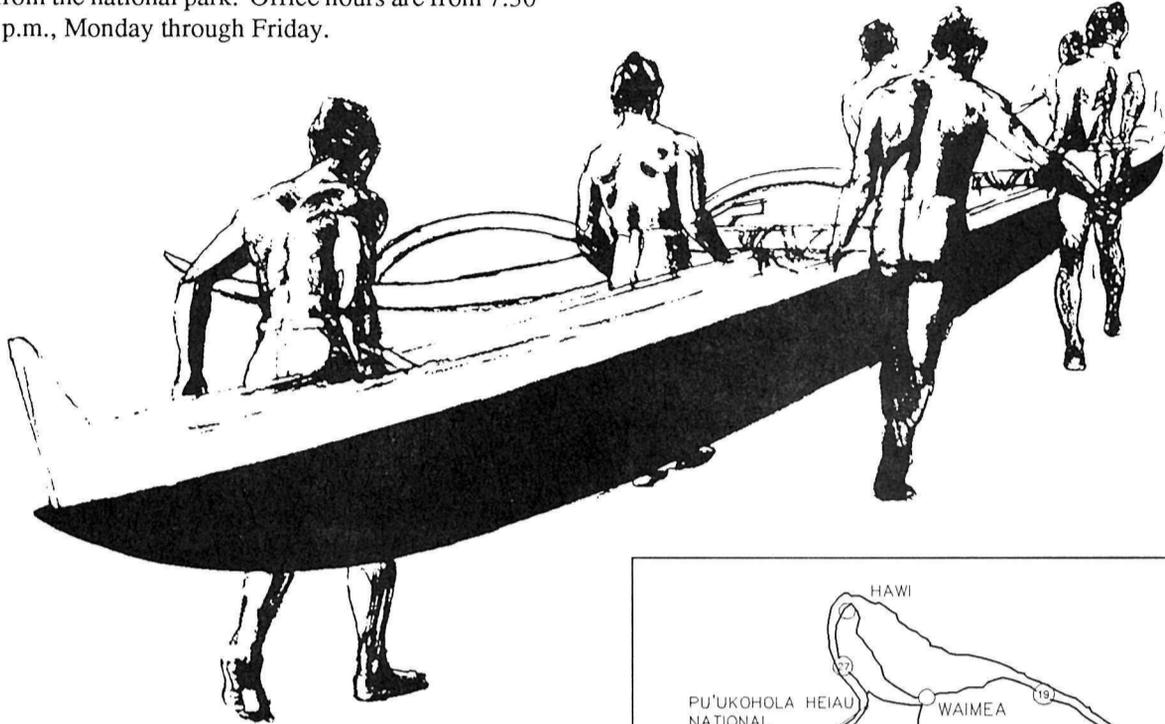
## VISITOR INFORMATION

This new national park is not yet fully operational--development is lacking and the National Park Service has not completed the purchase of all privately owned lands within park boundaries (see map). All lands in Federal ownership are open to the public. Consult with park rangers to avoid trespassing onto private lands or inadvertently violating Hawaiian sacred sites. Visitor facilities or drinking water are not yet available at the park, but a park ranger is on duty daily. No picnicking or overnight camping is allowed. Guided tours of portions of the park are possible when arrangements are made in advance.

Visitor information is available at the park's office located on the *mauka* (inland) side of the highway in the Kaloko Industrial Park across from the national park. Office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.



One of the most striking features of the large platform *heiau* of Pu'uoina is its magnificent south wall. It is built of stacked, water worn slabs, some as large as one foot by two feet by five feet, and reaches a height of eight feet in places.



## LOCATION

A temporary access road to the park is located about three and one-half miles south of the Keahole (Kona) Airport opposite the Kaloko Industrial Park. Turn toward the ocean at the unmarked dirt road located opposite the industrial park warehouses. Since the access road is rough, it is advisable to park near the entrance gate and walk the three-quarters of a mile to the ocean. If you do decide to drive, proceed slowly and watch for rocks and holes. Stay on the road at all times.

Visitors should be sure to bring drinking water, head cover, sunscreen, and wear sturdy footwear. Cameras and binoculars are suggested.

**KALOKO-HONOKOHAU  
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**  
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Write to: Superintendent  
Kaloko-Honokohau NHP  
73-4786 Kanalani Street, #14  
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740  
or call: (808)329-6881