

# Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau

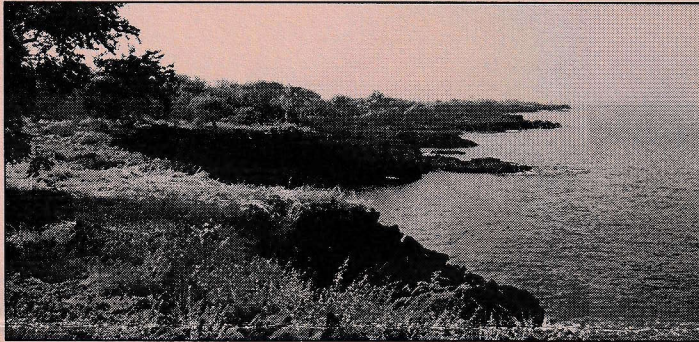
National Historical Park

National Historical Park  
US Department of the Interior

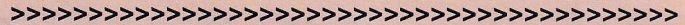
(808)328-2326



## EXPLORE KI'ILAE VILLAGE



The rugged lava shoreline of the South Kona coast beckons you to explore the backcountry trails of the park. Have you ever imagined visiting a historic abandoned Hawaiian village? Come and experience this special and unique area. Step back in time. The ocean will whisper ancient stories from the past as you pass by places used by people of long ago.



### THREE AHUPUA'A

The 1871 trail takes you through three different *ahupua'a*, including Hōnaunau, Kēōkea and Ki'ilae. Traditionally, the *ahupua'a* was a division of land extending from the mountain to the sea. The *ahupua'a* contained everything necessary for survival; access to the sea, farming areas in the fertile uplands, and timber and birds in the upper *mauka* (mountain) regions. The Hōnaunau *ahupua'a* contains the *pu'uhonua* (place of refuge), great wall and the royal grounds where the chiefs once lived.

The Kēōkea *ahupua'a* features livestock pens from more recent historical times as well as a *hōlua* (sled) slide, where Hawaiian royalty once sped down the steep slope at great speeds for sport, and the dramatic Keanae'e Cliffs. The *ahupua'a* of Ki'ilae contains the abandoned village of Ki'ilae, where inhabitants lived traditionally from the sea until the 1930's. Men took canoes in the deeper water to fish for 'ōpelu and 'ahi while women would tend fish traps and gather *limu* (seaweed) and shellfish along the shoreline.



### HAWAIIAN TRAILS

Ancient and historic Hawaiian trails were an important part of the cultural landscape. Trails provided access for local and regional travel for subsistence activities, cultural and religious activities, communication and control. The rugged landscape of South Kona rendered trails the only efficient means of transportation.

Inland and coastal *alaloa* and *alahahele* typically ran laterally with the shoreline. Another important type of trail was the *mauka-makai*, upland-seaward trail, also known as *ala pi'i uka* or *ala pi'i mauna*. Every *ahupua'a* typically include one or more *mauka-makai* trail. These trails connected coastal villages with upland resources including dryland garden plots located at elevations with

The 1871 Trail is one section of a coastal *alaloa*, or regional thoroughfare. *Alaloa* were long trails that formed primary routes of travel between communities, royal centers, religious sites, and resources. Shorter, more locally important trails were known as *alahahele*.

more consistent rainfall.

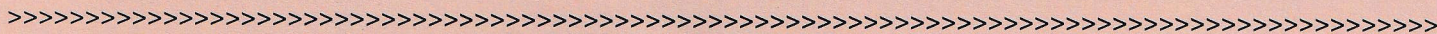
The 1871 Trail was built to accommodate foot travel, as well as, travel by horse and pack animal. It is also known as a “two-horse” trail.



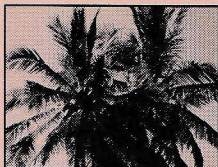
## RESOURCES

The structures that endure along the 1871 trail allow you to see firsthand the way people once lived in the area. Along the trail you will encounter platforms that served as heiau (religious structures), rock walls that were stacked to pen livestock and housing platforms built by the people who once lived along the coast.

You will also encounter many plants that were brought by native Hawaiians and were used for food, medicine and making everything from utensils and rope. The *noni* (Indian Mulberry) was brought for its medicinal value and can be readily identified by its pale yellow fruit and shiny green leaves. The *niu* (coconut tree) was a source of food and water. Fronds were used for thatching houses and weaving mats, and the husks were used for making rope and starting fire.



Niu



Noni



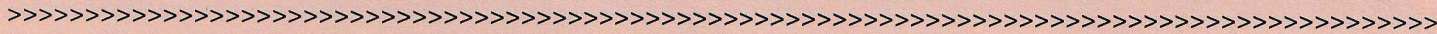
Pōhuehue



Naupaka



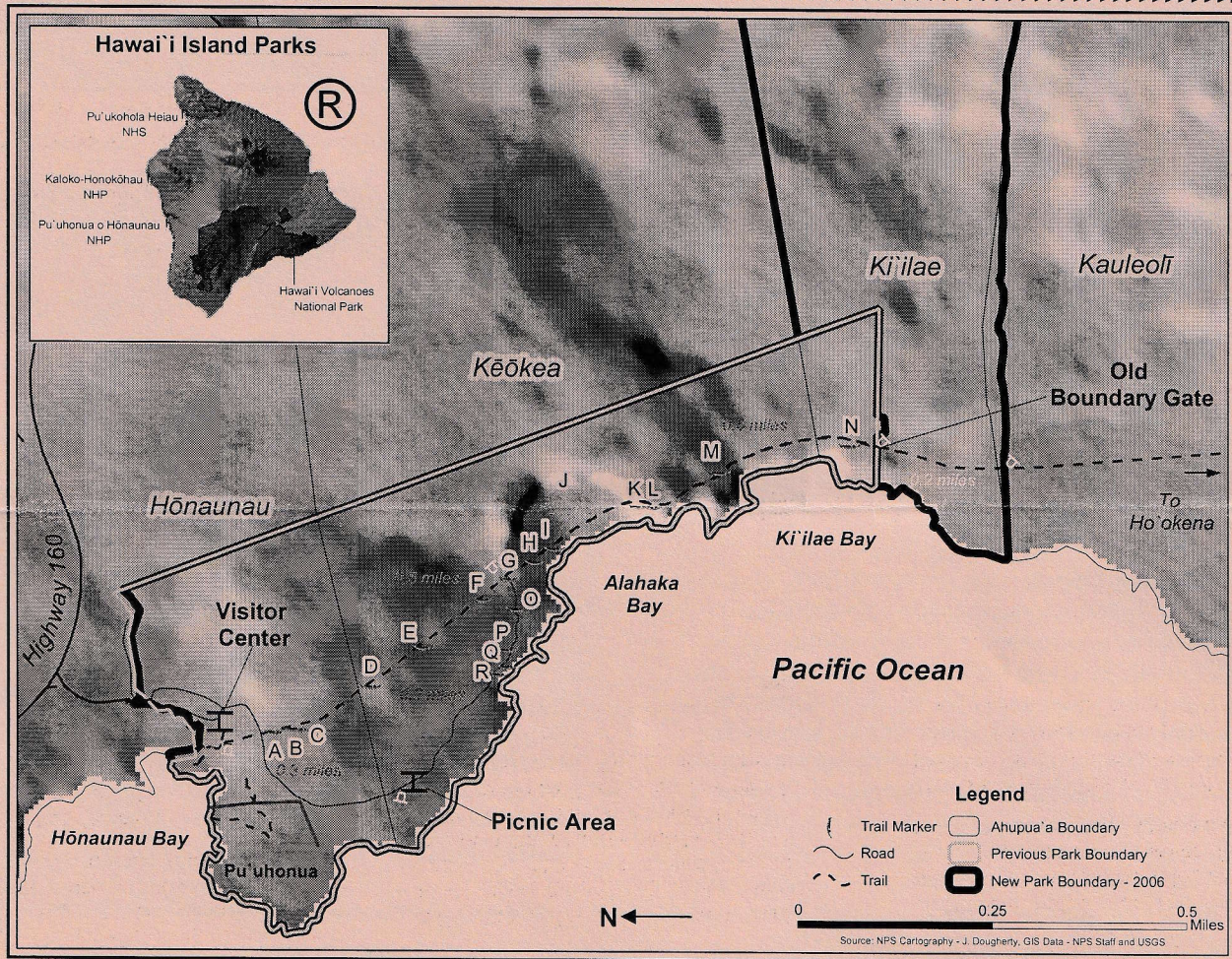
'Ilima



### Mālama i nā mea kahiko – care for the things of the past.

Once altered, they are gone forever.  
 Help mālama our past and future by not climbing on, altering, digging, defacing, destroying or collecting in, on or around our cultural sites.

# A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME – THE 1871 TRAIL



**A. Noni Tree:** (Indian Mulberry)  
Ancient Polynesians are said to have brought the noni to Hawai'i. They used the fruit for medicinal purposes and the root and bark for dyes.

**G. Collapsed lava tube:** At one time, lava flowed through this area within a tube, then the flow stopped and the hollow tube collapsed. Sections of the tube are still visible.

**N. Kī'ilāe Village:** Based on artifacts; it appears the village of Kī'ilāe is not an ancient one. Its history conceivably could extend back to the late 1700's. Over time, people began to move away

**B. Kula Uplands:** The mountainside before you was traditionally used for agriculture. Imagine cultivated crops of kalo, dry land taro; 'uala, sweet potato; mai'a, bananas; kō, sugar cane; and 'ulu, breadfruit.

**C. Coconut (Niu) Grove:** Coconuts were brought by the migrating Hawaiians who planted large groves. Different parts of the tree were used for food, medicine, cordage, baskets, games and brooms.

**D. Stone Walls:** Walls divided property and were built as boundary markers. The stones were stacked and held together by friction without the use of mortar. Enclosed stone walls seen here were garden plots or animal pens.

**E. 'Ōma'ō Heiau (temple):** The standing stone is a natural prayer tower. The stone rubble at the front of the tower and the tower itself are all that are left today of what used to be a temple.

**F. Kēōkea Hōlua (slide):** Hawaiian royalty developed a sport called hōlua, which consisted of sliding down specially paved hillside runways on a narrow sled with two runners.

**H. Animal Pen:** This rectangular enclosure with high standing walls had no apparent gate and has been identified as a goat pen by archeologists.

**I. Alahaka Heiau (temple):** This stone rubble is all that remains of what was once a temple in ancient times.

**J. Keanae'e Cliffs:** Mark Twain, in his book, *Letters from Hawaii* wrote: "An old volcanic eruption sent its broad river of fire down the mountainside here, and it poured down in a great torrent from an overhanging bluff some fifty feet high to the ground below. The flaming torrent cooled in the winds from the sea, and remains there today, all seamed and frothed and rippled – a petrified Niagara".

**K. Alahaka Ramp:** With the introduction of horses, trails were laid with rocks to enable riders to travel between villages.

**L. Waiū o Hina Lava Tube:** For public safety, the park has closed this lava tube.

**M. 'Āhinahina Point:** At one time the John Ahu Complex was here. The house platform and a cistern are all that remain.

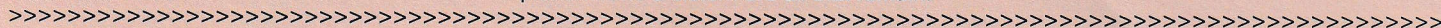
from traditional villages like Kūiaē along the coast; finding it easier to work for wages and buy the things they needed.

**O. Chief Keawe House Complex:** The wall on the right is a boundary of an animal pen. On the left is the house site of Chief Keawe. Can you find the fishing shrine located off to the right?

**P. Historic Salt Pans:** These modern concrete pans were used to produce salt by filling them with sea water. The water would evaporate leaving sea salt behind.

**Q. Kou Trees:** These coastal trees with bright orange flowers were used to make bowls. The dark and light wood colors contrasted to make beautiful patterns.

**R. Paumoa Beach:** If you use your imagination, you may be able to see the image of a dog underwater in the second inlet to the south when the tide is low and the ocean is calm.



## Trail Information

**Length** 2 miles round trip  
**Duration** Approximately 1 hr.  
**Where to start** Behind the visitor center



RS-068  
Hiking Trail



RS-017  
Pets on Leash



PS-038  
No Camping



PS-042  
No Campfires



PS-095  
No All-Terrain Vehicles



PS-062  
No Diving



## Hiking Regulations & Safety

### Protect Fragile Park Resources

**Come Prepared**  
**Be Aware of Heat Stress**

Please help us preserve these ancient structures by remaining on the trail and refraining from climbing on the stone foundations. Bring good walking shoes, a hat, wear sunscreen and carry plenty of water. Should you feel weak at anytime on the hike, get under the shade and drink plenty of water. Do not attempt the hike if you have lung, heart, feet or leg problems.