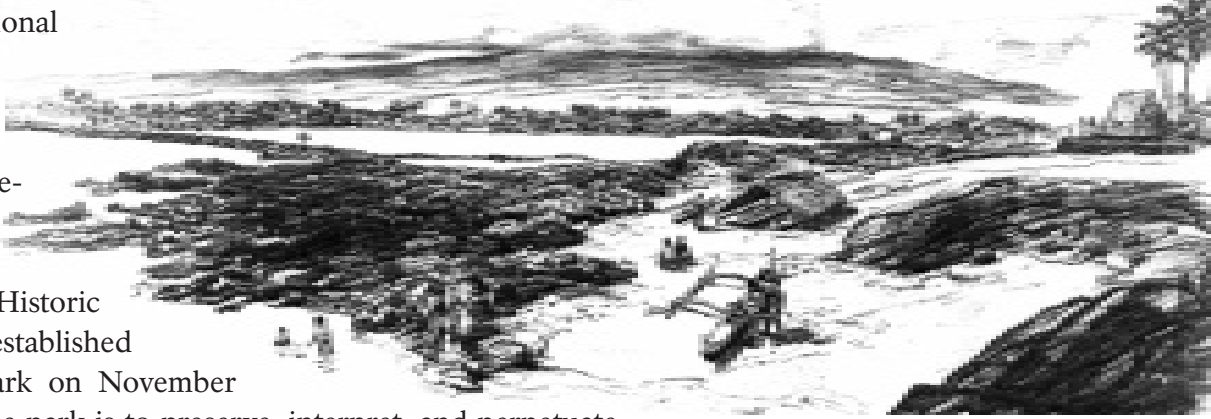




Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park sits below the majestic Hualālai Volcano along the Kona coast on the island of Hawaiʻi. Because of its archeological and cultural values, the area was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1962 and was established as a National Historical Park on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1978. The purpose of the park is to preserve, interpret, and perpetuate traditional native Hawaiian activities, values, and culture, and to demonstrate historic land use patterns.



## Land, People and Water

At first glance the landscape appears unsuitable for humans. However, the area was once a thriving Hawaiian settlement. People harvested fish from the sea and fishponds. They cultivated gourds, coconuts, and raised chickens, dogs, and pigs. Farther inland *ʻohana* (extended family) worked resources like taro, sweet potatoes, wood for building material and firewood, and fiber for clothing and cordage. A community formed within the *ahupuaʻa* (sea to mountain land division) that shared these resources.

Clear evidence of Hawaiian settlement within this 160-acre park can be found at Kaloko and ʻAimakapā

fishponds, and ʻAiʻōpio fish trap. The ocean makes up almost one half of the park and is an important resource both for the people of old and today. The waters off Kaloko-Honokōhau are currently managed by the State of Hawaii.

Kaloko fishpond, with its massive seawall, provides an excellent example of the engineering skills of the ancient people. The natural sand enclosure at ʻAimakapā fishpond (modified for aquaculture) demonstrates their capacity to live in concert with the environment.

## Flora and Fauna

The fishponds, tidal areas, and wetlands at Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park are important as a home for many of the unique animals and fish of Hawaiʻi. The habitats at ʻAimakapā and Kaloko fishponds are essential to the survival of resident waterbirds such as the endangered *aeʻo* (Hawaiian black-necked stilt) and the *ʻalae keʻokeʻo* (Hawaiian coot). It is also an important stopover for migratory birds. *Honu* (Hawaiian green sea turtles) graze on algae in the shallows of ʻAiʻōpio and can often be seen basking on shore within the park.

Nesting waterbirds and basking sea turtles are very sensitive to outside disturbances; for this reason we ask that you keep your distance. Pets must be under your control and on a leash no longer than six-feet while in the park.

Anchialine ponds are another unique park resource found scattered throughout the lava flows. These ponds were a source of brackish to fresh water for the people who lived

or traveled through this arid landscape. The anchialine ponds host an extraordinary amount of native life forms including *makaloa*- a rare sedge, *ʻōpae ʻula* (Hawaiian red shrimp), and the orange black damselfly

Like most of Hawaiʻi, Kaloko-Honokōhau is threatened by non-native species replacing the native Hawaiian plants and animals. Kaloko fishpond is now clear of red mangrove which once encircled the entire pond and eliminated valuable habitat for birds and fish. Foreign fountain grass out-competes the native *pili* grass that was harvested for thatching. Mongoose eat ground nesting birds and their eggs near ʻAimakapā pond. Non-native algae and fish threaten the marine environment. The National Park Service seeks to manage non-native species to encourage native plants and animals to flourish.

## Archeology

Hundreds of archeological features found in the park are reminders of the rich cultural history of Hawaiʻi, including *kahua* (house platforms), *pa* (planters), *kūʻula* (fishing shrines), *paena waʻa* (canoe landings), *na ala hele* (trails), and *kiʻi pōhaku* (petroglyphs-rock carvings). To date, more than 200 archeological sites have been recorded around *Kaloko* pond alone. The significance of the area is the relationship between the people who once lived here, the resources, and a culture that spanned over 1200 years prior to Western contact.

The Māmalohea Trail (also known as the King’s trail) was built in the mid 1800’s. A restored one mile segment in the park is but a fraction of what once extended around much of the island of Hawaiʻi.

There are several *heiau* (Hawaiian temple platforms) found in the park. The most prominent is located on the south end of the park boundary adjacent to ʻAiʻōpio Fistrap and the *Honokōhau* small boat harbor.



# Visitor Information

## For Additional Information:

**write to:** Superintendent  
Kaloko-Honokōhau NHP  
73-4786 Kanalani St. #14  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

**Call:** (808) 329-6881

**Internet:** [www.nps.gov/kaho](http://www.nps.gov/kaho)

This park is still under development. Future plans include a unique opportunity to restore the archeological features for the perpetuation of traditional aquaculture, horticulture, and the living culture of Hawai'i. Drinking water and concessions are not available. Overnight camping and fires are not allowed. Rest rooms are located at *Kaloko* fishpond and on the trail to *Honokōhau* beach. Interpretive programs are provided for educational groups when arranged in advance.

Visitor information is available at the park headquarters located in the *Kaloko* Industrial Park, two miles north of the *Honokōhau* Boat Harbor, or two miles south of the Kona International Airport. Turn *mauka* (inland) on *Hina Lani* Street. Take the first right hand turn onto *Kanalani* Street. Turn right into the fourth driveway. Our office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## Special Considerations



Sea turtles are protected. Touching, disturbing, or harrasing them is illegal.

### *Mālama i nā mea kahiko-* Care for 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.

-Mahalo

## Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park

