

Honouliuli National Historic Site

O'ahu, Hawai'i

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

August 2026



Photo courtesy of Hawaii's Plantation Village

From the Superintendent

Aloha Friends,

I would like to invite you to join us in charting the future of Honouliuli National Historic Site.

As a new national park unit, Honouliuli presents an opportunity for us to shape the future management and experience of the park together. We are looking for your ideas and guidance on how the public can access the site, how its resources can be preserved, and how its history can be interpreted and shared with visitors and communities for generations to come.

Five in-person and two virtual talk story sessions will be hosted to discuss future ideas for Honouliuli National Historic Site. Everyone is welcome to participate.

This newsletter offers information to help with these discussions by sharing preliminary work done by the National Park Service, partners, and communities since 2015, along with details about the upcoming in-person and virtual talk story sessions. I hope you will share your ideas and visions for Honouliuli National Historic Site. I look forward to hearing from you and taking this journey together.

Mahalo,
Christine Ogura
Superintendent, Honouliuli National Historic Site

About the Park

Honouliuli National Historic Site tells the story of incarceration, martial law, and prisoners of war in Hawai'i during World War II. It was the largest and longest used incarceration site in Hawai'i that held over 400 US civilians and residents of Japanese and European ancestry, and over 4,000 prisoners of war from Okinawa, Korea, Japan, Italy, Taiwan, and the Philippines.

Located in the Honouliuli ahupua'a, the camp operated from 1943 to 1946. The site was established as a unit of the national park system in 2015. Today, the National Park Service continues to work in partnership to ensure these stories are never forgotten.

"The purposes of the Historic Site are to preserve and interpret for the benefit of present and future generations the history associated with the internment and detention of civilians of Japanese and other ancestries during World War II in Hawai'i, the impacts of war and martial law on society in the Hawaiian Islands, and the co-location and diverse experiences of Prisoners of War at the Honouliuli Internment Camp site."

PUBLIC LAW 116-9, MARCH 12, 2019

Draft Vision for Honouliuli National Historic Site

Based on prior community engagement, the National Park Service drafted the following vision for the future of the park. The vision should reflect the desires from those impacted by the history of the site, community members, partner organizations, and the National Park Service. We invite your ideas on this draft vision:

Honouliuli National Historic Site will be an enduring place of reflection, learning, and connection—where the history of incarceration, institutional injustice, and resilience of US civilians and prisoners of war is interpreted and remembered with honesty, empathy, and respect. Through representative storytelling and a strong sense of place, the site is preserved to immerse visitors in the experiences of those impacted. The park illuminates the ongoing relevance of this history of human and civil rights, freedoms, reconciliation, healing, and peace. Honouliuli National Historic Site will inspire dialogue and understanding of who we are as a nation – past, present, and future.

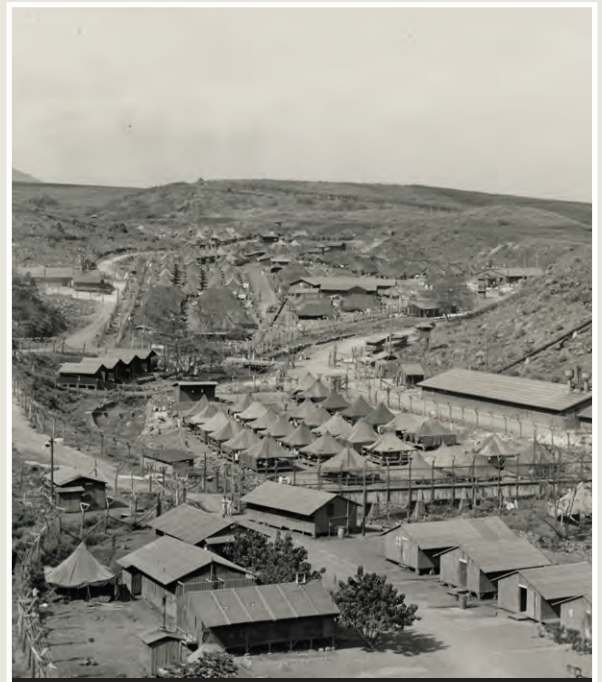


Photo Courtesy of Hawaii's Plantation Village

Draft Desired Conditions for Honouliuli National Historic Site

Desired conditions are statements of aspiration that guide strategies and actions that the National Park Service strives to achieve and maintain at a site. Conditions may include details about resource conditions, visitor experiences and opportunities, and facilities and services. We invite your thoughts on the following draft desired conditions for Honouliuli National Historic Site.

Draft Desired Conditions for Parkwide Management and Operations

- **Partnerships:** Partnerships and collaboration are the cornerstone of the ongoing preservation and interpretation of Honouliuli National Historic Site. Meaningful relationships with partners are cultivated and sustained, building a community of neighbors, non-profit organizations, survivors, and their descendants. These partnerships are strengthened through shared stewardship, as community volunteers and National Park Service staff work together to maintain the site and its history.
- **Accessibility:** The park works toward expanding accessible opportunities to the greatest extent practicable, offering multiple ways for visitors to connect with the site, including those that do not require walking into the gulch. The public can learn about and connect to the history, stories, and landscape of Honouliuli National Historic Site through virtual and off-site opportunities. Being on site is not required to understand its history and to recommit to the pursuit of freedom and justice for all.



Draft Desired Conditions for Visitor Use and Experience

- **Pre-Arrival:** Visitors arrive at the site prepared for the experience. They are oriented to the general history and significance of the site, including pre- and post-WWII context. They understand what to expect during their visit and are aware of the undeveloped conditions of the gulch.
- **On-Site Experience:** Visitors enter the site and are welcomed into a space where the lives and experiences of those incarcerated and imprisoned are honored and remembered. The experience is immersive. Visitors are faced with the harsh, isolated landscape, intense heat, and oppressive humidity of the rugged “natural prison.” Visitors walk the same pathways as those who were incarcerated and can see the lasting marks they left upon the landscape.

Time at the site is focused on viewing its historic sites, natural and cultural features, and learning about history. Visitors can ask questions and engage in dialogue with interpretive guides and each other to further their understanding of and connection to the site and the people incarcerated there. There are opportunities for contemplation, personal reflection, and meaningful connection to the present.

A variety of stories and testimonies reflect the diverse nationalities, backgrounds, and experiences of those incarcerated in the camp. Each visit offers something new to discover and learn. Interpretive programming connects Honouliuli to the broader environment and resources, hundreds of years of human habitation at and around the site, and its ongoing ties to the broader community.

Facilities that support visitor safety and well-being are available, while the area remains largely undeveloped. Separated roads and trails are well-marked and easy to follow, providing access to key locations throughout the site.

- **Departure:** Through the stories, visitors feel connected to the site and leave with an increased understanding of the realities of wartime in Hawai‘i and abroad. They understand how wartime incarceration tested individuals and communities, and the importance of the guarantees set by the United States Constitution, democratic principles, and international laws and treaties. They appreciate the freedoms that allow them to walk away and leave the gulch.



Draft Desired Conditions for the Cultural Landscape

- The natural and cultural histories of the park are managed holistically as a cultural landscape centered on Honouliuli stream and gulch. The geography of the area, native flora and fauna, archeological resources, and historic views convey the landscape's layered history, spanning the Native Hawaiian land use, sugarcane plantation, and post-war periods in the Honouliuli ahupua'a. Temporal interpretation is centered around the internment camp period.
- Views, sounds, and tangible cultural landscape features create an atmosphere that fosters reflection and a sense of the gravity of the site's World War II-era history, while also facilitating an appreciation for the broader natural and cultural heritage of Honouliuli stream and gulch.

- Resource management and interpretation are data-driven and integrate the perspectives of associated communities. Research and collaboration with associated communities support more complete and accurate resource knowledge, appropriate preservation and protection strategies, and factual and powerful interpretive programming.

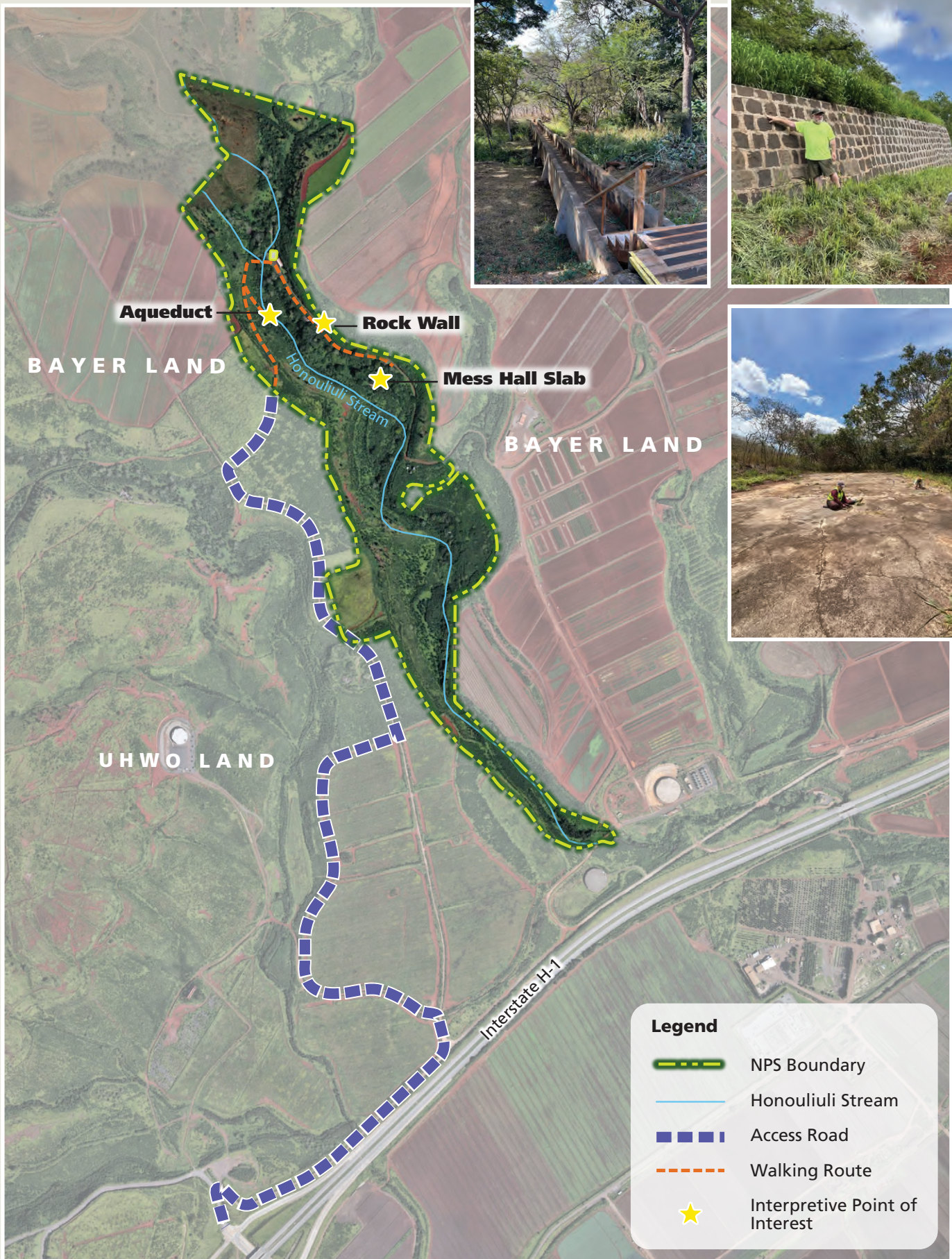


Planning for the Future

Current general public visitation to the park is offered as a limited National Park Service guided shuttle bus tour. Offsite opportunities to learn about Honouliuli include partner exhibitions and online resources, such as websites and videos.

We're exploring different ways people might visit Honouliuli National Historic Site in the future. Some of these questions reflect feedback collected from community members, partners, and visitors who care deeply about the site.

- **What do you think works well about the draft vision statement?** Are there parts that feel especially meaningful, unclear, missing, or in need of adjustment? What is special about the site?
- **What are your thoughts on the draft desired conditions?** Do they reflect the kinds of experiences, stories, and site qualities you believe are important? How should the site look and feel? What would you add or change?
- **As an *on-site* visitor, what would you like your experience at Honouliuli National Historic Site to be?** What kinds of experiences or moments would be meaningful to you when you arrive?
- What interpretive elements, amenities, or facilities would help you connect with and explore the site? Would you want self-guided or National Park Service-guided options, or both? Do you envision a facility such as an overlook where visitors can spend time learning about the site before entering the gulch?
- **As an *offsite* visitor, what would you like your experience of Honouliuli National Historic Site to be?** Do you envision sites outside of the park to develop related stories? Do you envision offsite opportunities to be physical or virtual, or both?
- **How would you prefer to get to the site?** Would you expect to drive yourself, take a shuttle, use public transportation, or use another kind of transportation? For accessibility, do you envision transportation being provided by some form of four-wheel vehicle throughout the park, trails that can be maneuvered by wheelchairs, or both?
- **What types of basic visitor needs should we keep in mind?** What would help you feel comfortable and supported during your time at the site—shade, water, toilets, rest areas, wayfinding, or something else?



We'd Love to Hear From You

As we think about how people may learn about and visit Honouliuli National Historic Site in the future, we want to hear from you. Your perspectives are important in shaping this site for generations to come. We are committed to understanding what is important to our communities as we consider future visitor access.

Share your ideas and visions for the future of Honouliuli National Historic Site at our talk story sessions on the following dates:

- Saturday, August 1, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.,
Mililani High School cafeteria
95-1200 Meheula Pkwy.
Mililani, HI 96789
- Saturday, August 1, 2–4 p.m.,
Kapolei Public Library
1020 Manawai St.
Kapolei, HI 96707
- Sunday, August 2, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.,
Savon in the Hawaii Kai Corporate Plaza
6600 Kalanianaʻole Hwy #114
Honolulu, HI 96825
- Sunday, August 2, 2–4 p.m.,
Kailua Intermediate School cafeteria
145 S Kainalu Dr.
Kailua, HI 96734
- Monday, August 3, 5:30–7:30 p.m.,
Washington Middle School cafeteria
1633 S King St.
Honolulu, HI 96826
- Tuesday, August 11, 5:30–7 p.m.,
Online, <https://bit.ly/HONOtalkstory8-11-26>
- Thursday, August 13, 5:30–7 p.m.,
Online, <https://bit.ly/HONOtalkstory8-13-26>

Other ways to get involved:

- To receive updates, email hono_superintendent@nps.gov to join our mailing list.
- Share your thoughts on the future of Honouliuli National Historic Site with the National Park Service by sending an email or a letter to Christine Ogura, Superintendent, at hono_superintendent@nps.gov or 1 Arizona Memorial Place, Honolulu, HI 96818.

