



Honouliuli National Historic Site

Basic Information: After Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese Imperial Army during WWII, the then Territory of Hawai'i was placed under martial law. Hundreds of American civilians, mostly Japanese, were immediately arrested and put into 17 confinement sites across the Hawaiian Islands. They were given no explanation for their arrest yet were tried and convicted as criminals. Hundreds were ultimately sent to Honouliuli Internment Camp.

What is Honouliuli? Honouliuli is the name of Hawaii's largest and longest-run confinement site that imprisoned over 4,000 prisoners of war and 400 Americans from 1943 to 1946. The camp was located on the west side of O'ahu in a hot and stale gulch that incarcerated civilians nicknamed "Hell Valley" for its miserable conditions.

Honouliuli Internment Camp's prisoners of war consisted of people from Japan, Korea, Okinawa, Italy, and the Philippines. Those from Okinawa and Korea were forced to fight for the Japanese Imperial Army and were then captured in battles along the Pacific and sent to the camp.

The site of Honouliuli Internment Camp was established as a unit of the National Park Service in 2015.

Why is it Important? *They look like the enemy so they must be the enemy.* Hundreds of Americans in Hawai'i were forcefully removed from their homes, separated from their families, and put into prisons. Racial prejudice was the sole reason they were arrested. The National Park Service's mission is to continue sharing Honouliuli's history to prevent it from happening again in the future.



Photo by R.H. Lodge, courtesy of Hawaii's Plantation Village

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