Since long before written history, a strong spirit of life has flowed through this land and the water that washes upon its shore. Hawaiians saw this spirit in the pools of water fresh enough to drink, the ocean animals to catch for food, the plants to shape into shelters. And so they settled here. They lived makahā—on the beach and lave fields—harnessing food from the sea; they lived mauka—upland where enough rain fell to grow taro and banana. They traveled the maku-a-kahā trails to share their wealth. They lived by kapu—laws that protected the food and water. Their way of living in harmony with the land and sea changed little for centuries, and then almost disappeared. Today the Hawaiian spirit is strong again, and is celebrated and nurtured here at Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park.

E Komo Mai (Welcome)

The people of Hawai‘i and the National Park Service welcome you to Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park, which was established in 1978. We invite you to explore the park, enjoying its natural beauty and visiting sites that still speak of the Hawaiian people who thrived here for centuries.

Loko (Fishponds and Fishtraps)

Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park is on the western coast of the Island of Hawai‘i, on the Kona coast of the Big Island. It’s about 17 miles northwest of Hilo. The park’s entrance is at Mahukona, near the H3 freeway.

UA O LA NO O KAI IA KAI

Shore dwellers find subsistence in the sea

The people of Hawai‘i, the National Park Service, and the National Park Service- Hawai‘i Visitor Center encourage you to enjoy the park’s facilities, services, and exhibits; to respect and enjoy the cultural and natural objects and sites in the park; and to be good guests on the Kona coast of the Island of Hawai‘i. We strive to make our facilities, services, and exhibits accessible to all. For information, call 808-933-4500, or check the park website.

Emergencies: call 911

Relocated Sites

Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about National Park sites on this island: Pu‘ukoholā Heiau National Historic Site, Pu‘ukoholā Heiau National Historic Site Trail, and Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park. Related Sites: Pu‘ukoholā Heiau National Historic Site, Pu‘ukoholā Heiau National Historic Site Trail, and Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park.

Look for wildlife. At Kaloko–Honokōhau, look for ‘ama‘ama or ‘ama (striped mullet) in a shallow area for ari and sukiki (white heroin). ‘Ama ‘ama fish in a shallow area for ari and sukiki (white heroin) or a shad-like fish (sukiki) and a worker fish for other kinds of fish. Along the shore, look for sea turtles and shorebirds.

Regulations and Safety Tips (below) apply within the Kaloko–Honokōhau National Historical Park. State and federal laws protect all cultural and natural objects in the park. Be respectful of animals and cultural objects. Do not disturb plants or animals. Almost all plants, including in tidepools.

• Snorkeling may be lawful, but only in designated areas. For more information about park regulations, call, or check the park website.
KO KULA UKA, KO KULA KAI
What happens on the mountain, happens in the sea

Water is the dynamic thread that ties the environment together. The land, sea, and sky act as carriers for this valuable resource and make possible human settlement. Hawaiians, perceiving the necessity of water on isolated islands, extended their land-use patterns to the water cycle. Their land divisions, called kula, extended from the mountain to the sea. They recognized that all of its elements were interdependent: What affected the mauna (toward the mountain) regions, affected the mokuai (toward the sea); what affected the neighboring ahupua‘a affected it; what affected the land affected the fishponds and the sea. What affected the water cycle affected the entire environment. This is the way it was and it is at Kaloko-Honokōhau.

From: “The Spirit of Kaloko-Honokōhau,” written in 1974 to explain why this area is so important to Hawaiians.

THE ANCIENT WORLD SURROUNDS YOU
Here is the historic site of an entire community, not just a few tokens of the Hawaiian culture.

Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park
The park lies at the base of the mountains and along the coast of the island. Ancient Hawaiians lived in this area for centuries and left behind a rich cultural heritage.