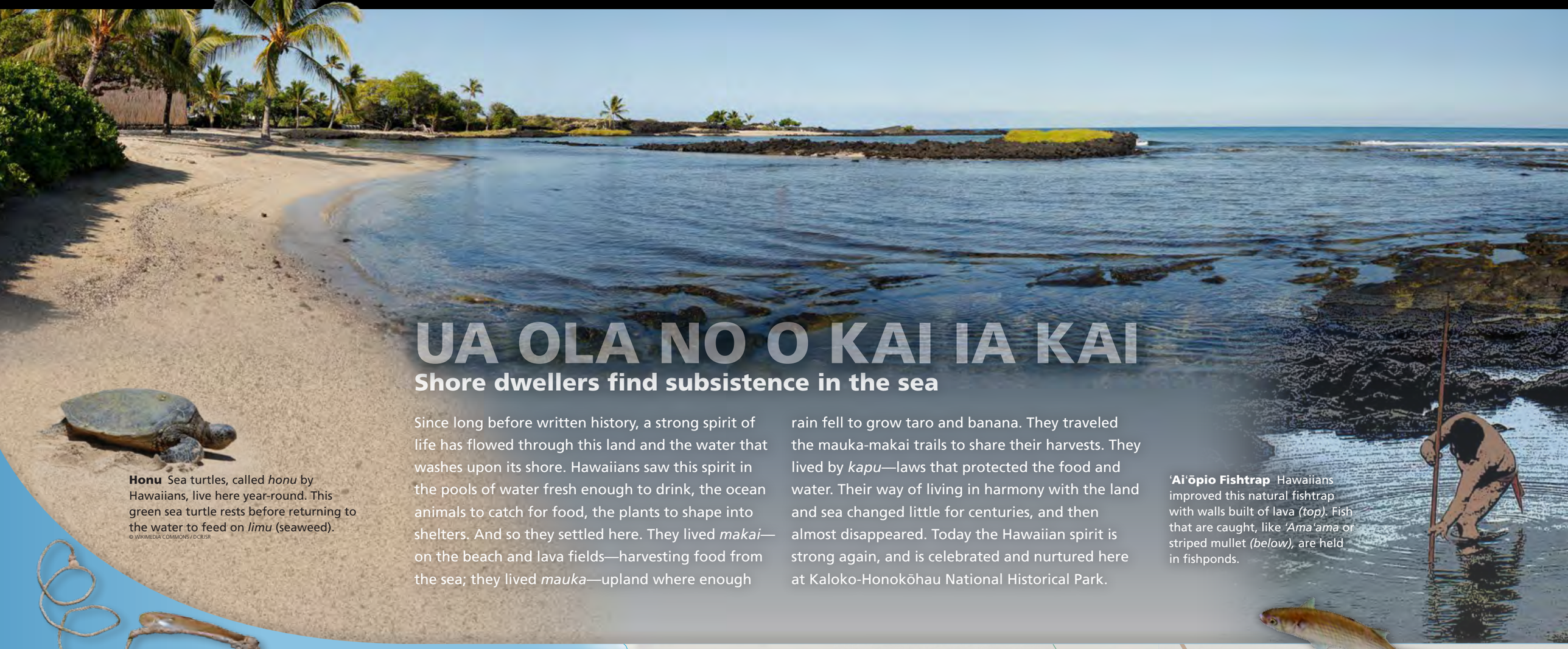
Kaloko-Honokōhau

Kaloko-Honokōhau
National Historical Park
Hawaii

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



UA OLA NO O KAI IA KAI

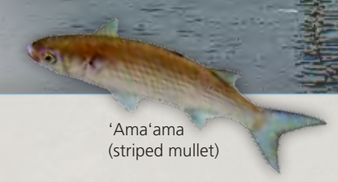
Shore dwellers find subsistence in the sea

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 *makai*—on the beach and lava fields—harvesting food from the sea; they lived *mauka*—upland where enough rain fell to grow taro and banana. They traveled the mauka-makai trails to share their harvests. 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.

Honu Sea turtles, called *honu* by Hawaiians, live here year-round. This green sea turtle rests before returning to the water to feed on *limu* (seaweed).
© WIKIMEDIA COMMONS / DCRISR

Fish hook
HĀNA CULTURAL CENTER

'Ai'ōpio Fishtrap Hawaiians improved this natural fishtrap with walls built of lava *(top)*. Fish that are caught, like *'Ama'ama* or striped mullet *(below)*, are held in fishponds.



'Ama'ama
(striped mullet)

Loko (Fishponds and Fishtraps)

Early on, Hawaiians discovered how to use ponds and bays for catching and farming fish. At Kaloko-Honokōhau they created *loko*—fishponds and a fishtrap—to collect and raise food. Strict kapu decreed when these fish could be harvested, such as when ocean fish were scarce. With this secure source of food, Hawaiians lived well here. Today fishing continues, using traditional and modern ways—including fish hooks like the one shown above.

KALOKO FISHPOND

Strength and spirit flow through this *loko kuapā* (walled fishpond) and its massive stone wall. The kuapā absorbs wave energy and allows water through. With changing tides, fish swim in and out of the pond through the *'auwai kai* (channel). A *mākāhā* (sluice gate) prevents passage of larger fish. Peter Keka *(photo, holding rock)*, who was born and raised in this area, was the master mason for restoring the Kaloko kuapā.

© NATHAN YUEN

'AIMAKAPĀ FISHPOND

This *loko pu'uone* (sand berm fishpond) sheltered aquatic life behind the dunes. Hawaiians built enclosures along the far-inland shore to hold fish that they wanted to keep for food. They also dug channels from the pond to the ocean to allow water to flow in and out with the tides. Sedges and other aquatic plants line the pond, creating nesting places for rare native birds like *ae'o* (Hawaiian stilt, *above*) and *'alae ke'oke'o* (Hawaiian coot).

'AI'ŌPIO FISHTRAP

Early residents raised the natural lava wall on the bay side to create a *loko 'ume iki* (fishtrap). They placed nets across the openings to catch the fish as they swam in or out with the changing tides and currents. At low tide, you can see the stone pens built to hold fish. The large rock platform *(upper left in photo)* was the site of the *Pu'uoina Heiau* (temple). The heiau signified the importance of this fishtrap and the two fishponds.

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.

Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park is on the west coast of the island of Hawai'i, on Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway (Hwy. 19) between Kona International Airport and Kailua-Kona, near mile marker 97. Stop first at Hale Ho'okipa, the visitor center, open 8:30 am to 4 pm daily. From there you can walk a trail to the beach or drive to the other two park entrances.

Walking the Park's Trails
• Ala Mauka Makai is the park's most popular trail. It connects the visitor center and Honokōhau Beach. Pass old ranch structures and native loulu palms. Take a short side trail to see *ki'i pōhaku* (petroglyphs). Rough and uneven; 0.9 miles.
• The coastal trail is part of Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. This portion goes along the sand beach and through dense vegetation to 'Aimakapā and Kaloko fishponds. Look for heiau and house platforms, sea turtles along the shore, and shorebirds flying overhead. Continue behind Kaloko Fishpond to Wāwahiwa'a Point. The trail is on soft sand and rough lava. 1.4 miles from 'Ai'ōpio Fishtrap to Kaloko Fishpond; 1.7 miles if you continue to Wāwahiwa'a Point. (Trail continues beyond park.)
• Walk across a 2,000-year-old lava flow on the rugged Māmalahoa Trail, which was used for cattle and horses.
• Ala Hu'ehu'e, an old ranch road, gives you an idea of the paths people traveled from makai to mauka.

Ocean and Beach Recreation
Enjoy fishing, snorkeling, surfing, and swimming. To protect cultural sites, please do not dig or move the sand or rocks.

Looking for Wildlife
At Kaloko Fishpond, look for *ae'o* (stilt) and *auku'u* (night heron). 'Aimakapā Fishpond is a nesting area for ae'o and *'alae ke'oke'o* (Hawaiian coot) and a winter home for other birds. Along the shore, look for sea turtles and shorebirds.

Regulations and Safety
Treat this sacred area with respect. • Federal law protects all cultural and natural objects in the park. • Stay on designated trails. • Bathing in anchialine pools is prohibited.
• Do not collect shells or rocks.
• Do not disturb wildlife or plants, including in tidepools.
• Firearms regulations and fishing guidelines are on the park website. • Pets must be restrained and under control by a leash no longer than six feet.
• Enjoy picnics, but do not use open fires or glass containers.
• Wear sturdy shoes on trails.
• Check at the visitor center for warnings about high surf, currents, or storms. • Wear sun protection and bring plenty of water.

Accessibility
We strive to make our facilities, services, and programs accessible to all. For information go to the visitor center, call, or check the park website.

Emergencies call 911

Related Sites
Explore traditional Hawaiian life at other National Park sites on this island: Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park, Pu'ukoholā Heiau National Historic Site, Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.

More Information
Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about national parks, visit www.nps.gov.

Kaloko-Honokōhau
National Historical Park
73-4786 Kanalani St., #14
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740-2600
808-329-6881
www.nps.gov/kaho

National Park Foundation
Join the park community.
www.nationalparks.org

☆GPO:20xx—xxx-xxx/xxxxx New in 20xx
Printed on recycled paper.

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, oriented their land-sea use patterns to the water cycle. Their land divisions, called *ahupua'a*, extended from the mountain to the sea. They recognized that all of its elements were interdependent: What affected the *mauka* (toward the mountain) regions, affected the *makai* (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 total environment. This is the way it was and is at Kaloko-Honokōhau.

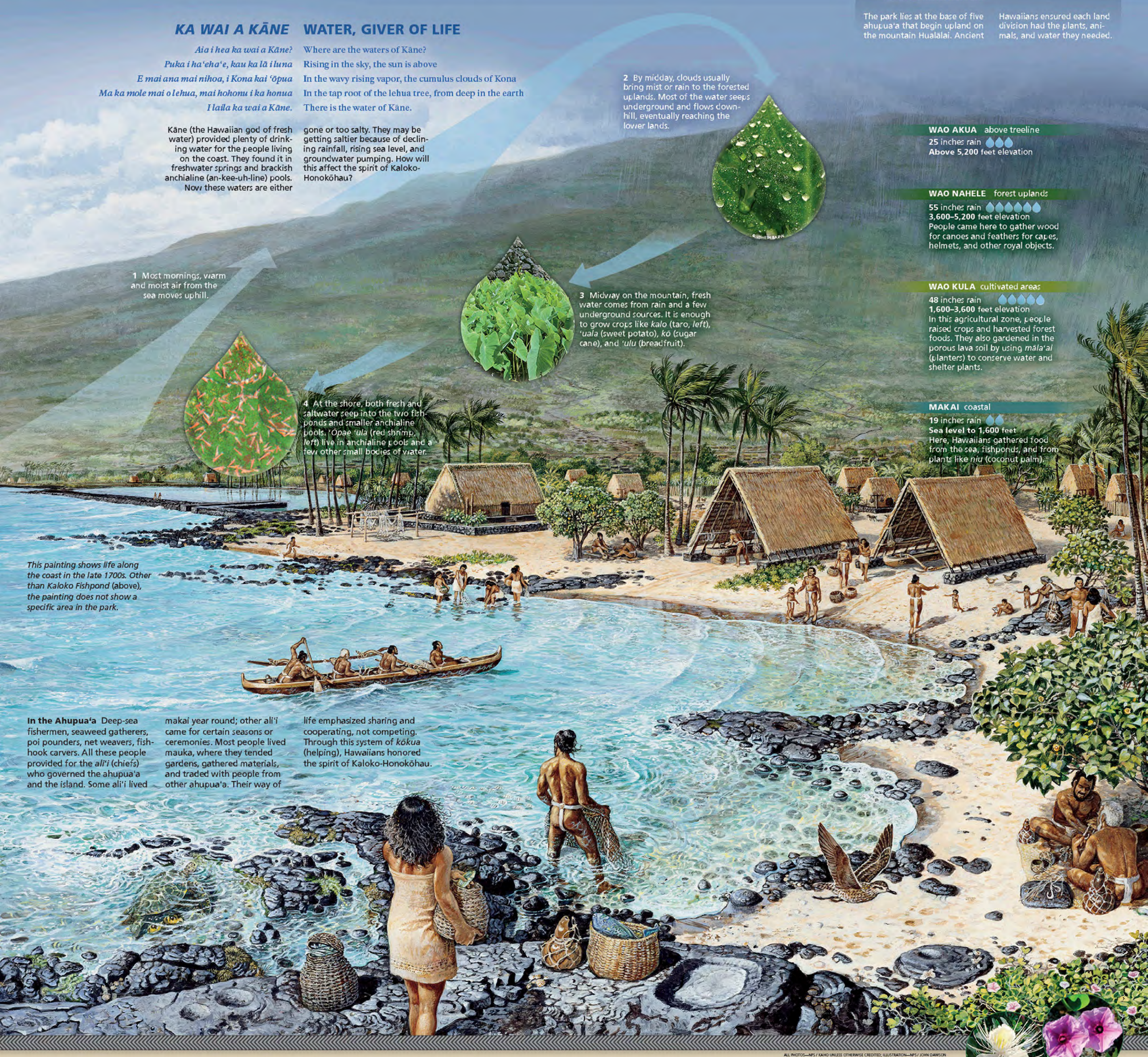
Text from "The Spirit of Kaloko-Honokōhau," written in 1974 to explain why this area is so important to Hawaiians.

The park lies at the base of five ahupua'a that begin upland on the mountain Hualālai. Ancient Hawaiians ensured each land division had the plants, animals, and water they needed.

KA WAI A KĀNE — WATER, GIVER OF LIFE

Aia i hea ka wai a Kāne? — Where are the waters of Kāne?
Puka i ha'eha'e, kau ka lā i luna — Rising in the sky, the sun is above
E mai ana mai nihoa, i Kona kai 'ōpua — In the wavy rising vapor, the cumulus clouds of Kona
Ma ka mole mai o lehua, mai hohonu i ka honua — In the tap root of the lehua tree, from deep in the earth
I laila ka wai a Kāne. — There is the water of Kāne.

Kāne (the Hawaiian god of fresh water) provided plenty of drinking water for the people living on the coast. They found it in freshwater springs and brackish anchialine (an-kee-uh-line) pools. Now these waters are either gone or too salty. They may be getting saltier because of declining rainfall, rising sea level, and groundwater pumping. How will this affect the spirit of Kaloko-Honokōhau?



1 Most mornings, warm and moist air from the sea moves uphill.

2 By midday, clouds usually bring mist or rain to the forested uplands. Most of the water seeps underground and flows downhill, eventually reaching the lower lands.

3 Midway on the mountain, fresh water comes from rain and a few underground sources. It is enough to grow crops like *kalo* (taro, *left*), *'uala* (sweet potato), *kō* (sugar cane), and *'ulu* (breadfruit).

4 At the shore, both fresh and saltwater seep into the two fishponds and smaller anchialine pools. *'Opae 'ula* (red shrimp, *left*) live in anchialine pools and a few other small bodies of water.

WAO AKUA above treeline
25 inches rain
Above 5,200 feet elevation

WAO NAHELE forest uplands
55 inches rain
3,600–5,200 feet elevation
People came here to gather wood for canoes and feathers for capes, helmets, and other royal objects.

WAO KULA cultivated areas
48 inches rain
1,600–3,600 feet elevation
In this agricultural zone, people raised crops and harvested forest foods. They also gardened in the porous lava soil by using *māla'ai* (planters) to conserve water and shelter plants.

MAKAI coastal
19 inches rain
Sea level to 1,600 feet
Here, Hawaiians gathered food from the sea, fishponds, and from plants like *niu* (coconut palm).

This painting shows life along the coast in the late 1700s. Other than Kaloko Fishpond (above), the painting does not show a specific area in the park.

In the Ahupua'a Deep-sea fishermen, seaweed gatherers, poi pounders, net weavers, fishhook carvers. All these people provided for the *ali'i* (chiefs) who governed the ahupua'a and the island. Some ali'i lived makai year round; other ali'i came for certain seasons or ceremonies. Most people lived mauka, where they tended gardens, gathered materials, and traded with people from other ahupua'a. Their way of life emphasized sharing and cooperating, not competing. Through this system of *kōkua* (helping), Hawaiians honored the spirit of Kaloko-Honokōhau.

ALL PHOTOS—NPS / KAHO UNLESS OTHERWISE CREDITED; ILLUSTRATION—NPS / JOHN DAWSON

Maiapilo

Pōhuehue

THE ANCIENT WORLD SURROUNDS YOU

Here is the historic site of an entire community, not just a few tokens of the Hawaiian culture.

Māla'ai Built of lava rock, *māla'ai* (planters) were built to keep soil shaded and moist. With māla'ai, Hawaiians could grow food in this hot, dry environment.

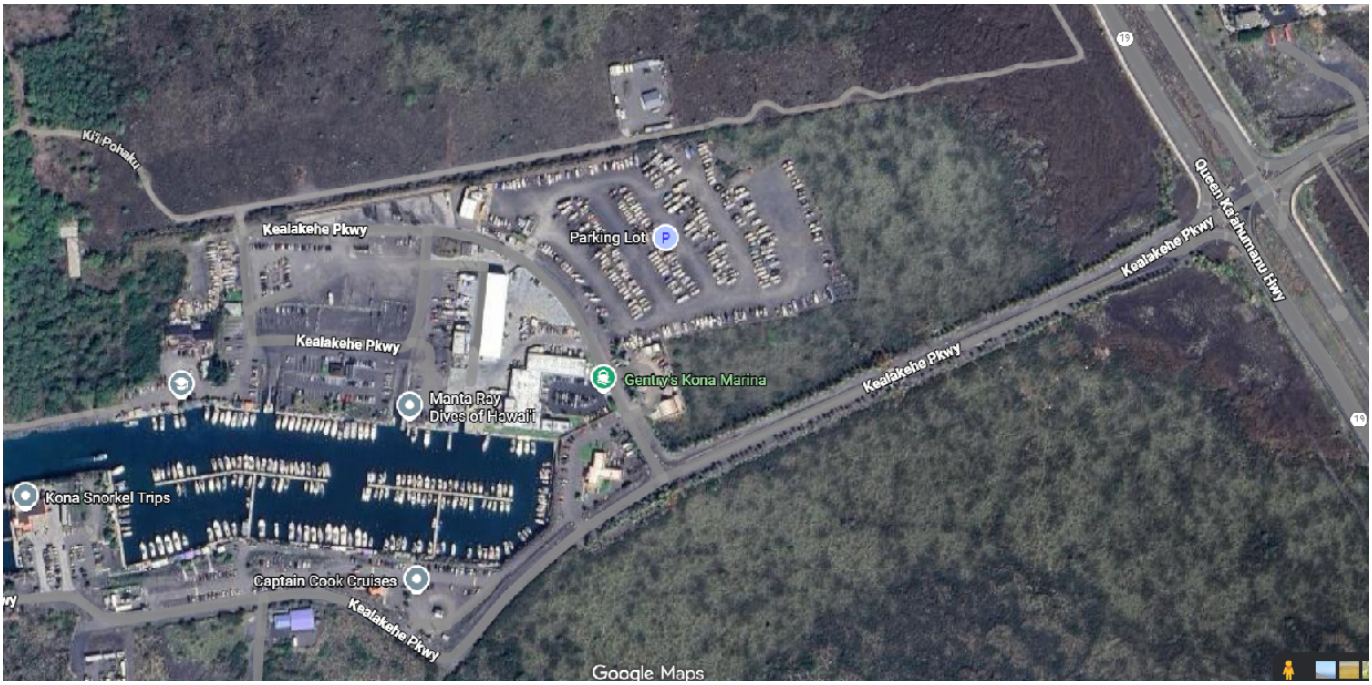
Trails A Hawaiian family walks on an ancestral trail. They represent more than seven generations of their family who have cared for this *wahi pana* (legendary place).

Ki'i pōhaku Carved in rock, *ki'i pōhaku* (petroglyphs) speak from early and more recent times. Ki'i pōhaku in the park include European guns amid more traditional images.

'Auwai kai Lava rocks line the *'auwai kai* (channel) connecting the fishpond with open water. Small fish can pass through a *mākāhā* (sluice gate) in the 'auwai kai; larger fish cannot.

Coral Reef
Snorkel Adventures
View Offer - 20% off
Flash Sale 20% Off
Kona Dream
Sportfishing
Blue Marlin Fishing
Trips | Kona Dream ...

Dumpster
Location
GATE
Coral Reef
Snorkel Adventures
View Offer - 20% off
Flash Sale 20% Off
HONOKOHAU HARBOR
Kona Dream
Sportfishing
Blue Marlin Fishing
Trips | Kona Dream ...
Aquatic Life
Divers, Kona
Last-Minute
Availability


Ki'i Pohaku
Kealakehe Pkwy
Parking Lot
Kealakehe Pkwy
Gentry's Kona Marina
Manta Ray
Dives of Hawaii
Kona Snorkel Trips
Captain Cook Cruises
Kealakehe Pkwy
Kealakehe Pkwy
Kealakehe Pkwy
Queen Ka'ahumanu Hwy
19
19
Google Maps