



DIVISION OF STATE PARKS, DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
VEHICLE ACCESS SPECIAL USE PERMIT
Ka'ena Point State Park Reserve (Mokulē'ia)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Who needs the permit?

Anyone one wanting to drive a “vehicle” into Ka'ena Point State Park Reserve, Mokulē'ia Section, beyond the paved road and parking lot. Gate at the end of the paved road is locked and only those with approved permits can access the lock combination. Those hiking or riding bicycles in the area do not need permits.

Who is eligible for a permit?

Anyone residing on Oahu, having a valid driver's license (including Out-of-State licenses), and being 18 years of age or older may apply for a permit.

What “vehicles” need a permit?

For the purposes of this permit, a “vehicle” means any licensed, motorized vehicle including, but not limited to, four-wheel drive automobiles, trucks, and vans or motorcycles, motor bikes, mopeds, scooters, and trail bikes.

Why is permit needed?

The permit was established in 2015 as a resource management measure. Increasing use of four-wheel drive vehicles within the Mokulē'ia Section over the previous 20 years resulted in damage to vegetation and sand dunes, soil erosion, and a growing network of dirt roads and tracks across the park. The permit addresses these issues by limiting vehicle access to permit holders only and their agreeing to abide by all permit conditions, including those requiring vehicles stay on designated roads and in parking areas.

Is permit for off-road, four-wheel drive vehicle recreation use or mudbogging?

No. The permit is not for off-road recreation use. The park is **not** a designated off-road or cross-country vehicle recreation area. Permit holders must drive on designated roads only and not over rough and challenging terrain or up and down slopes. Damaging designated roads or off-road areas by driving repeatedly through ponded water or waterlogged areas is not allowed (mudbogging, unnecessarily spinning tires, donuts, etc.).

When is a permit needed?

A permit is needed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for any vehicle entering the controlled vehicle access area. Permit holders must have a permit with them while driving in the controlled area.

Where is the permit required?

The permit is required for all vehicles accessing that portion of Ka‘ena Point State Park Reserve, Mokulē‘ia Section, located beyond the paved road. A map is included with each permit issued. The permit and permit conditions, including possession of permissible gear, only apply to this area. They do not apply to:

- Other parts of Ka‘ena Point State Park;
- Natural Area Reserve (beyond the boulder barrier);
- Keawa‘ula (Yokohama Bay) portion of Ka‘ena Point State Park;
- Other State Parks where vehicle access is limited.

Where can a permitted vehicle go?

Once past the gate, vehicles must stay on designated roads and in parking areas. A map of designated roads and parking areas is included with each permit issued. Designated roads and parking areas may be marked by boulder alignments to distinguish them from old off-road vehicle tracks and routes. Directional signs are posted at major junctions.

How much does the permit cost?

Nothing. The permit is free.

How do I get a Ka‘ena vehicle access permit?

(a) Apply online at: <https://sups.ehawaii.gov>.

First Time Applicant must create a login account with eHawaii.gov before accessing the application page (**Log In** Need an account? Sign up). Once the account is created, return to the permit website’s main page, enter your email and password, and click **Log In** (located below password). The application webpage will open. Click on “Submit an application” and complete the form. Use your same email address and password when returning to this webpage to access the weekly gate combination (on brown tool bar) which you need to enter the controlled access area.

Renewing Applicants log in to the permit website where you first applied and access the gate combination. Click “Apply” on the brown tool bar. An application form will open with information you entered previously. Review and update the information as needed and click “Submit”. If you had permits for more than one vehicle, only information from your last application shows. Enter vehicle information for the next vehicle and click “Submit”. Your personal and contact information should remain the same.

It may take up to **10 working days** to process the approved permit and decal. Please allow several days for mail delivery.

(b) Apply for a permit in person.

For those without internet access, apply in person at the State Parks office during normal working hours (1151 Punchbowl Street, Rm. 310; 8:00 am to 3:15 pm). The permit is issued at that time. Please have all necessary information available. The

office is in the Kalanimoku Building on the corner of Beretania and Punchbowl Streets. Public parking is in the basement.

What information do I need for the permit application?

Applicants need the following information:

- Driver's license number (must be valid license)
- Vehicle information (make, model and license plate)
- Contact information (mailing address, phone numbers, email address, emergency contacts)
- Additional driver's information (names, driver's license number, phone number) if this option is selected.
- Emergency contact information (name of contact, phone number of that individual)

Can someone else apply for the permit for me?

We do not recommend others submitting applications on your behalf. Applying yourself ensures that all information needed is available and accurate.

If you do not have internet access and someone, family or close friend, applies for you at the State Parks office, they need a copy of your valid driver's license to verify you are a licensed driver. Copies of driver's licenses are not needed for individuals being listed as additional drivers. If stopped by enforcement officers, information on the permit must match that of the driver's license.

If someone applies for you electronically, you are responsible for all permit conditions and actions taken within the State Park Reserve involving use of your vehicle. Permits may be revoked if permit conditions are not followed.

What does the permit include?

Permit holders receive a copy of the permit signed by the applicant via electric signature and by the State Parks Administrator. The signature confirms applicants accept the permit and verifies they have read and understand all attached permit conditions. Permit holders must have the permit available when driving or parked in the controlled access area to verify that they are an authorized driver.

The permit includes:

- Conditions and rules applying to this Special Use Permit;
- Instructions on obtaining the combination to the locked gate;
- Maps depicting the designated roads and parking areas;
- Decal with your permit number to be placed in a visible location on your back bumper or a comparable location visible from rear of your vehicle.

How do I get the combination to the locked gate?

Only valid permit holders have access to the lock combination. The combination can be accessed 24 hours a day online at <https://sups.ehawaii.gov>. Enter the website using your email

address and password and click “Gate Combination” on the brown toolbar. Permit holders without internet access can call the State Parks office for the combination at (808) 587-0300 during normal working hours on weekdays (not weekends). Callers will be asked their name and permit number for verification. Combination numbers can only be shared with others having valid Ka‘ena vehicle access permits. The permit allows access only to the vehicle named on permit, *not* to unpermitted vehicles accompanying a permitted vehicle. Allowing vehicles through an open gate without valid decals (tailgating) is a violation of permit conditions.

When is the combination on the lock changed?

Combination is changed on Wednesday morning by 9:00 am. The new weekly combination is available online each Wednesday at 12:00 am (midnight). Permit holders entering or leaving after 12:00 am and before 9:00 am on Wednesday should record Tuesday’s combination to cover this gap.

Permit holders planning to be within the controlled vehicle access area beginning on Tuesday and exiting on Wednesday or Thursday, can request the Wednesday combination by calling the State Parks office at (808) 587-0300 between 8:00 pm to 3:15 pm on weekdays.

How long does the permit last?

The permit is valid for one year (i.e. January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023). Applications for the following year will be processed starting in November. Permit holders who applied for permits online previously can renew the permit without reentering required information. Information on the permit can be updated at any time online.

How do I open the lock on the Ka‘ena gate?

The four-digit combination lock on the Ka‘ena gate is in a bell housing. The weekly combination is only available to valid permit holders. A view port cut into the top of the bell housing allows users to see the combination numbers on the bottom of the lock. To open, grab a hold of the lock from under the bell housing and raise the base of the lock to the view port so that the numbers can be seen and turned to the current combination. After entering the 4 digits, push the lock away from you and then pull it towards you to open the lock and remove it from the bell housing to open the gate. After passing through the gate, you must close the gate behind you, scramble the combination numbers, replace the lock into the bell housing, and re-lock the gate. **Do not leave the gate unlocked.**

If I have a valid permit, will I always be able to enter the gate at Ka‘ena?

The gate is locked every day, 24 hours a day. With a valid combination, you can enter the gate at any time on any day. Exceptions are when DLNR determines the area is unsafe, there is an emergency, or road conditions have deteriorated due to heavy rains. If the area is closed and time allows, State Parks will attempt to notify permit holders by email. Please check the Ka‘ena Point page on the State Parks website for updates before heading out:

<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dsp/parks/oahu/kaena-point-state-park/>

Where is the permit decal placed?

The decal must be in a visible location on the back bumper or a comparable location visible from the rear of the vehicle.

Does this mean there will be more enforcement at Ka'ena Point?

A permitting system is a management tool that aids enforcement by specifying special conditions, rules and laws. If permit holders conduct illegal activities while in the area, their permit may be revoked and they will not have access to the gate combination. Those entering without a permit may be subject to penalties and not eligible for future permits.

How can DLNR enforcement officers tell if I have a valid permit or if I just asked someone for the gate combination?

When permits are issued, permit holders receive a decal for the vehicle identified on the permit application. By placing the decal in a visible location on the back bumper or a comparable location, enforcement officers can easily see if a vehicle is permitted without bothering permit holders. The decal number is the same as the permit number.

Why is the gate locked and why are permits being required?

DLNR is mandated to care for and protect the natural and cultural resources of the area. Beginning in 2009, the community-selected Ka'ena Point Advisory Committee along with the DLNR Ka'ena Point Stewardship Team, met to discuss management options and develop an action plan to protect the Mokulē'ia Section, Ka'ena Point State Park Reserve. The resulting action plan called for several actions including implementing a vehicular access permit system. The plan was approved by the Board of Land and Natural Resources in 2011. In 2011 and 2012, DLNR installed signs designating the upper road and shoreline access roads in the State Park Reserve and encouraged voluntary compliance. Off road vehicle use continued to negatively impact the area. Starting in December 2014, DLNR implemented this permit system to stem the negative impact of off-road vehicle use in accordance with the Land Board mandate. The Integrated Ka'ena Point Action Plan can be found here:

<http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/ecosystems/files/2013/09/Kaena-Final-Action-Plan.pdf>

Other Considerations

The permit is intended to increase accountability for behavior in the area and make it safer for all users. It is also ensuring that all drivers receive accurate information about the area. People driving in the area can no longer claim that they didn't know the rules.

The permit does not restrict pedestrian access, so it does not infringe on native Hawaiian gathering rights or other uses of the State Parks Reserve.