

ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeologists from the Bishop Museum found extensive remnants of Hawaiian culture in the valley, including a *heiau* (religious temple), *ko'a* (fishing shrines), fishponds, house sites, stone-walled enclosures, *'auwai* (irrigation channels), agricultural terraces, walls and planting areas. While many of these sites are inaccessible to the public, Kapa'ele'ele Ko'a and Keaniani Kilo (lookout) are accessible via a trail on the west side of the valley mouth. From the *kilo*, the *kilo i'a*, or fish watcher, spied schools of *akule* in the bay and signaled to valley residents who would collectively net them. Huilua Fishpond, the most impressive site in the valley, and presently under restoration, can be visited from the east side of the bay.

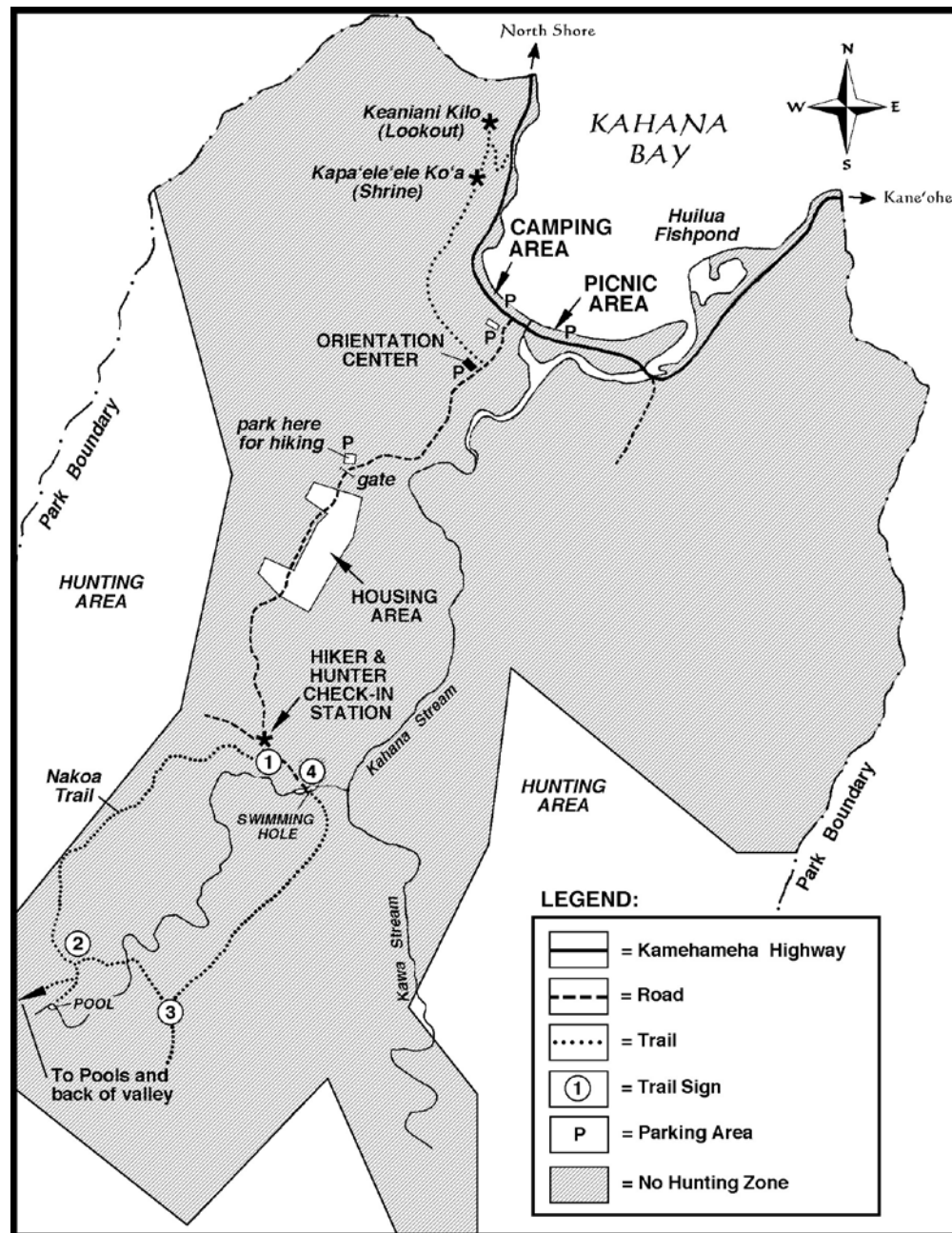
HIKING TRAILS

There are two hiking trails available to the public. Both are relatively easy walking, but trails may be muddy. No permits are required, and detailed trail maps are available at the Orientation Center.

- **Kapa'ele'ele Ko'a and Keaniani Lookout Trail** is a one mile long loop trail that begins at the Orientation Center and takes about one hour. The trail passes two cultural sites and offers stunning views of Kahana Bay.
- **Nakoa Trail** is named for the *koa* trees found along this 3.5 mile loop trail through a tropical rain forest. The loop hike takes about 2.5 hours. The total length of the hike is 4.5 miles from the parking area. The trailhead can be reached by walking 0.6-mile up the road. This trail crosses Kahana Stream twice - use caution. Fruit picking when in season.

CAMPING

There are ten (10) beach campsites in the park. Camping is by permit only. Camping permits may be obtained from the State Parks office in Honolulu (587-0300) or online at dlnr.hawaii.gov/dsp/camping. There is a fee per campsite per night. Please check the State Parks website for rates and availability.



HUNTING

Hunting is allowed within designated hunting boundaries, on weekends and holidays **ONLY**. Permits must be obtained **IN PERSON** from the park office in Honolulu.

WILDLIFE

Gobies (*o'opu*), Hawaii's only native freshwater fish, can be found in the middle and lower valley streams. Mullet (*'ama'ama*) and Milkfish (*awa*) are commonly seen in and around Huilua Fishpond. Huilua Fishpond and other lowland areas are also home to the Black Crowned Night Heron (*'auku'u*), and the Golden Plover (*kolea*), as well as two endangered species, the Hawaiian Coot (*'alae ke'oke'o*) and the Hawaiian Gallinule (*'alae 'ula*). The upper valley supports native songbirds such as *'apapane* and *'amakihi*, as well as introduced species such as mynahs, cardinals, ricebirds and doves. Kahana is also an ideal habitat for feral pigs. Introduced by the original Polynesian colonizers, and later interbred with European species, these animals are very destructive to the few surviving native Hawaiian ecosystems.

VEGETATION

The expanse of land in Kahana Valley from the sea to the mountains contains many different vegetation zones. The lowlands consist of *koa*, hibiscus, shrub, *hala*, and pastureland. Further up the valley, in the wetter areas, *'ohi'a lehua* is dominant, with intermittently mixed forest scrub of bamboo, mountain apple, guava, ti and other species. Do not eat any fruit you are unfamiliar with.

Beautiful Kahana

Composed by Mary Montano
& Charles E. King

Mau loa nō ko'u mahalo nui
I ka nani pūnono o Kahana
Ka moani 'a'ala anuheā
O nā pali a'o Ko'olauloa

He maile kaluhea ia la'i
Ha'aeo a kea o naulu
Ulu a'e ka mana'o he aloha la
Kuini pua o Kahana

Forever I shall sing the praises
Of Kahana's beauty unsurpassed
The fragrance of the mountains
By the breezes to thee is wafted

Fragrance of maile in the stillness
Is stirred by the sudden showers
The ulu brings thoughts of love and
Desire for the flowers of Kahana

AHUPUA'A 'O KAHANA

Ahupua'a 'O Kahana State Park is located on the windward side of O'ahu, between Kāne'ohe and Lā'ie, and 26 miles from Honolulu. Kahana is a relatively unspoiled valley, and one of only a few publicly owned *ahupua'a*, or ancient Hawaiian land division, in the state.

An *ahupua'a* includes lands from the mountains to the sea (*mauka-makai*), encompassing all of the resource zones needed for subsistence. The *ahupua'a* of Kahana encompasses almost 5,300 acres, ranging from sea level at Kahana Bay to 2,670 feet at Pu'u Pauao on the crest of the Ko'olau mountains. Kahana is one of the wettest valleys on O'ahu. Overcast skies and showers are frequent, with an average annual rainfall of 75" along the coast to 300" at the back of the valley. Temperatures can range from the mid-60s to the mid-80s.

CULTURAL BACKGROUND

Kahana was a thriving fishing and farming community prior to Western contact. Those living in Kahana had an abundance of fresh water and fertile soil on the valley floor to cultivate *kalo* (taro), the staple crop. The *lo'i* (poned fields of *kalo*) were irrigated by *'auwai* (ditches) that diverted water from the streams to the fields. Kahana Bay provided a wealth of fish and shellfish.

In the 19th Century, following the unification of the Hawaiian Islands by Kamehameha I, the population rapidly declined as a result of Western contact and the introduction of foreign diseases. Sugar cane cultivation and the use of the valley as a WWII jungle warfare training site, have altered the natural and cultural environment of Kahana.

THE LIVING PARK

The primary purpose of this park is to nurture and foster native Hawaiian cultural traditions and the cultural landscape of rural windward O'ahu. Established as a "living park", there are thirty-one families living in the *ahupua'a* of Kahana. These families assist with interpretive programs that share the Hawaiian values and lifestyle. If you have a group interested in a cultural program at the park, please call (808) 587-0300.

HAVE A SAFE HIKE

Hikers have gotten lost by leaving the trails in Kahana. Stay on the designated trails and follow the signs and arrows. Heed warnings along the trails.

Trail Conditions:

- Trails can be wet, muddy, and slippery.
- Trails traverse uneven terrain with drop-offs along the sides of the trail. Watch where you walk and keep your eyes on the trail.
- There are two stream crossings along the Nakoa Trail that may require wading through water that is ankle to knee deep. There are slippery rocks in the stream, so proceed with caution.
- Do not cross the stream if it has been raining and the water is high and fast moving. Turn around and return the way you came.
- The trails can get dark quickly because of the dense vegetation. Start your hike early in the day and allow enough time to complete your hike by late afternoon.
- Expect mosquitos along the trail.

Checklist for Your Hike:

- Good hiking boots
- Water and snack
- Mosquito repellent
- First aid kit
- Sunscreen and hat
- Rain gear
- Whistle or cellular phone in case of emergencies

LEPTOSPIROSIS WARNING

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease found in fresh water. Do NOT drink the water or enter the stream with open cuts.



State of Hawai'i
Department of Land & Natural Resources
DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

Ahupua'a 'O Kahana State Park
52-222 Kamehameha Highway

(808) 587-0300

<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dsp/>



AHUPUA'A 'O KAHANA



STATE PARK

Kahana, O'ahu



(formerly Kahana Valley State Park)