

Kalauao

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

*To rise at daylight;
a multitude of clouds*

ISLAND OF
O‘AHU

MOKU:

‘Ewa

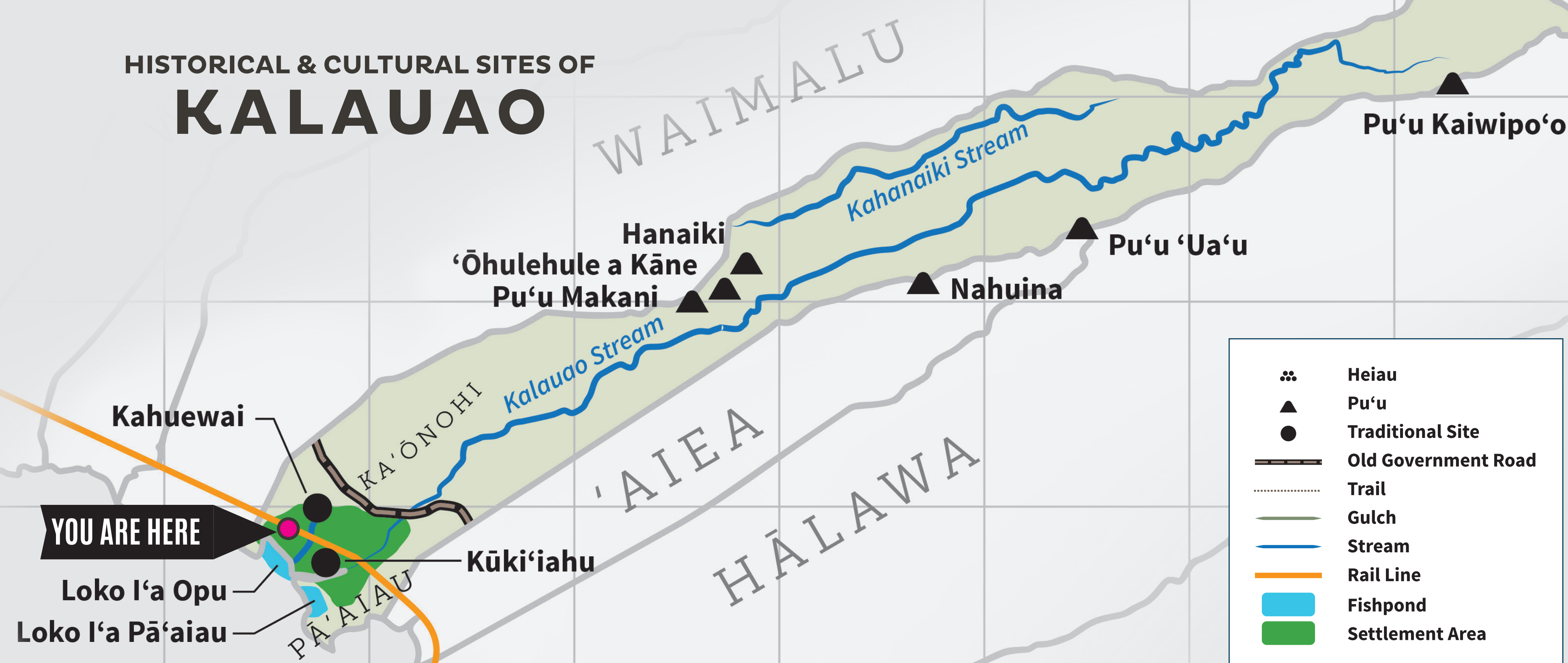
Moku refers to a land division of each island. Each moku, or district, was sub-divided into ahupua‘a.

AHUPUA‘A:

Kalauao

Ahupua‘a refers to the traditional Hawaiian system of land division. The land was divided to ensure that people had access to the natural resources of the uka (mountain) region, the kula (plain or flatter) region, and the kai (shoreline and ocean) region.

YOU ARE HERE

HISTORICAL & CULTURAL SITES OF
KALAUAO

Aerial photo of Kalauao circa 1940, Loko i'a Pā'āiau can be seen along the shoreline in the center along with Loko i'a Opu to the left.
Photo: U.S. National Archives

NĀ WAHI PANA

He Mo'olelo Kūpina'i: Mai ka Wā o ke Mō'i Wahine Kalanimanui'a a i ke Au nei

Aia ma ke ahupua'a 'o Kalauao ka wahi pana kaulana 'o Kūki'iahu, ka home o ka Mō'i Wahine 'o Kalanimanuia. Ua maluhia kona noho ali'i 'ana ma luna o O'ahu he 'ehā haneli a 'oi makahiki aku nei.

I loko nō o ka maluhia o ka wā iā Kalanimanui'a, ua 'ike 'ia nō na'e ma Kalauao ke kaua weliweli. I ka makahiki 1794, e kaua ana 'o Kā'eokūlani me kāna keiki hanauna pono'i, 'o Kalanikūpule ma Kūki'iahu. I ka hopena o ia kaua 'ana, ua make 'o Kā'eokūlani me kāna po'e ukali iā Kalanikūpule.

Ola mau ka ho'oilina o Kalauao a i ke au nei. Ua ho'oili 'ia he māhele nui o Kalauao i ke Kamāli'i Wahine 'o Bernice Pauahi mai kona makuahine mai. He mamo nō ho'i 'o Pauahi na ka Mō'i Kamehameha I. I kēia mau lā, mālama 'ia ia 'āina ma lalo o kona waiwai ho'oilina.

No nā Loko I'a Ali'i Hope Loa e Koe ana ma Kalauao

Ma ke awa lau o Pu'uloa, aia he zo a 'oi loko i'a ma ka moku 'o 'Ewa. Eia na'e, he 'ekolu wale nō loko i'a e koe ana i kēia mau lā. 'O Pā'āiau kekahi o nā loko i'a ali'i e koe ana.

Ma ke kauoha a ka Mō'i Wahine 'o Kalanimanui'a, ke kaikamahine ho'i a ka Mō'i Wahine 'o Kūkaniloko, i ho'okumu 'ia ai kēia loko i'a. Kaulana ka Mō'i Wahine 'o Kalanimanui'a i ka ho'okumu loko i'a 'ana i kona wā noho ali'i. Ma ia wā nō i 'ike 'ia ai ka lokomaika'i ona ma ka ho'opa'a 'ana i nā kumuwaiwai like 'ole.

E like me ke ahuahu 'ana o nā i'a o Pā'āiau, pēlā ho'i ka māhuahua 'ana a'e o nā i'a ma nā loko e pili pū ana, 'o ia ho'i 'o Opu ma Kalauao a me Pa'akea ma Waimalu. Ke ana 'ia ka nui o kēia mau loko i'a, he zo a 'oi 'eka ka nui. Hānai 'ia ia mau loko i'a kapu i ka wai hu'ihu'i o uka, mai ke kahawai 'o Kalauao a me ona mau pūnāwai.

He kūlana kapukapu ko kēia mau loko i ka po'e o 'Ewa. Mālama lākou i ka ho'oilina o ka Mō'i Wahine 'o Kalanimanui'a me ka hō'ihi pū 'ana iā Kānekua'ana, 'o ka mo'o kia'i o ia mau loko i'a. Ma ia hana e hō'ike 'ia aku ai nā kama'āina i ke aloha 'āina.

Ola ka Ho'oilina o ka Mō'i Wahine Kalanimanui'a

I loko nō o ka loli mau me ka ho'okiwiā 'ana o ka 'āina, e mau ana ka nani a me ka momona o nā 'āina o Kalanimanui'a mai uka a i kai. 'O ka momona o ka 'āina ka mea e ola nei ko Kalauao kini, me nā wai pua'i mau o Kahuewai ('o Kahuawai kekahi inoa), he ki'o wai 'au'au nō nā ali'i ma ka 'ili 'o Ka'ōnohi, a me ka pūnāwai o Kalauao.

E kahe mau ka wai ma'ema'e o ka 'āina. 'O ka 'āina i noho 'ia e nā ali'i o ke au kahiko, 'o ka home ia o nā mamo a nā 'ōiwi a me nā mamo ho'i a nā komone'e i kēia wā. Mai ke kuahiwi e kahe mai ai ka wai a hiki aku i ke awa lau. Ma laila e hui ai ka wai me ke kai, e ho'oulu ana i nā i'a o ka loko i'a, ka pipi, ka pāpā'i, a me ia mea aku, ia mea aku.

I ke au o ka manawa, he mea ko'iko'i ka mālama 'ana i nā loko i'a a Kalanimanui'a i ho'okumu ai. Ma ia mālama 'ana e pa'a mau ai ka pilina ma waena o kānaka a me ka 'āina.

A STORIED PLACE

Echoes of History: From Mō'i Wahine Kalanimanui'a to Modern Preservation

Kalauao's significance echoes through time. The site of the famed wahi pana, Kūki'iahu, was the home of Mō'i Wahine (queen) Kalanimanui'a, a formidable monarch who ruled peacefully over O'ahu from this ahupua'a more than four centuries ago.

Yet, Kalauao's history is not solely one of regal splendor but also of tumultuous conflict. In 1794, a momentous battle unfolded on these very slopes. Chief Kā'eokūlani found himself in a momentous struggle for control of the island against his own nephew, the formidable Kalanikūpule. Tragically, the fierce contest resulted in the death of Kā'eokūlani and nearly all his devoted followers.

The resonance of Kalauao's legacy continues to reverberate today. Princess Bernice Pauahi, a descendant of the esteemed Mō'i Kamehameha, would later inherit a substantial portion of this sacred land from her mother. Today, much of this cherished heritage remains an integral part of her estate, a testament to the enduring tapestry of Hawaiian history that continues to flourish.

Last of the Royal Fishponds at Kalauao

Ke awalau o Pu'uloa, the many harbored sea of Pu'uloa, was once adorned with over 20 *loko i'a* (fishponds) nestled within the 'Ewa moku. However, only three of these fishponds remain today, and among them, Loko i'a Pā'āiau proudly retains its legacy as one of the last royal ponds.

This fishpond owes its creation to the leadership of Mō'i Wahine Kalanimanui'a, the daughter of Mō'i Wahine Kūkaniloko. Kalanimanui'a was renowned for commissioning fishponds during her reign, a time marked by benevolence and an enduring peace. Her visionary efforts were instrumental in ensuring that agricultural and food resources thrived abundantly throughout the region.

Under Kalanimanui'a's reign, not only did Loko i'a Pā'āiau flourish, but so did sister ponds such as Loko i'a Opu in Kalauao and Pa'akea in neighboring Waimalu, which together spanned over 30 acres. These sacred loko i'a were traditionally nourished by the cool waters that meandered through upland lo'i kalo, Kalauao Stream, and subterranean springs.

In recognition of her enduring legacy, Kalanimanui'a and Kānekua'ana, the Mo'o Akua Wahine (deified guardian) of the ponds, were held in the highest esteem by the residents of 'Ewa. Their collective efforts and devotion to preserving the natural and cultural heritage of this land continue to inspire reverence and gratitude to this day.

Preserving the Legacy of Mō'i Wahine Kalanimanui'a

Amidst the tide of urbanization, the enduring natural beauty of Mō'i Wahine Kalanimanui'a's *wai* (freshwater) and *kai* (seashore) lands remains a cherished treasure for the people of Kalauao even today. Among the many invaluable water sources, Kahuewai (Kahuawai), a sacred bathing spring historically reserved for chiefly use in the 'ili of Ka'ōnohi, and the ever-flowing Kalauao Springs stand as steadfast providers of fresh water.

These pristine waters continue to grace the lands once ruled by the *ali'i*, now tended by a diverse community of native and immigrant descendants who call these fertile grounds their home. As the waters course their way, they ultimately converge into the harbor, where the mingling of fresh and saltwater breathes life into the indigenous fish, oysters, crabs, and a vibrant array of sea life that inhabit the fishponds.

In the face of modernization's advance, the timeless connection between the land, its people, and the natural world remains an enduring testament to the importance of preserving Kalanimanui'a's sacred and bountiful legacy.

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