

Things to Do:

- (1) Sacred Falls State Park (aka Kaliuwa'a; closed indefinitely)
- (4) St. Joaquim's Church
- (7) Punalu'u Beach Park
- (8) Punalu'u Beach

Places to Eat:

- (9) Punalu'u Restaurant

Places to Stay:

- (2) Pat's at Punalu'u (293-2624)
- (3) Countryside Cabins (237-1203)

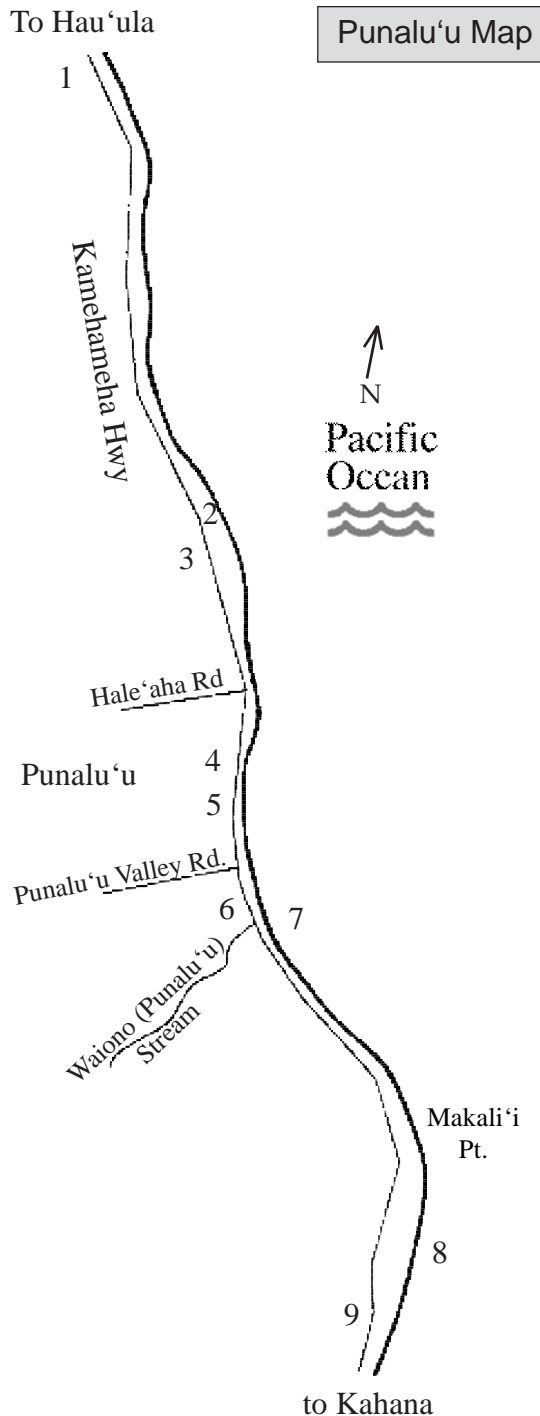
Things to Buy:

- (5) Kaya's Store (293-9095)
- (6) Punalu'u Store
- (6) Punalu'u Art Gallery and the Wax Revolution

Important Phone Numbers:

- ◆ Dept. of Land and Natural Resources (camping permits): 587-0300
- ◆ Honolulu City and County Dept. of Parks and Rec. (camping permits): 523-4525
- ◆ Kahuku Community Hospital: 293-9221
- ◆ The Bus: 848-5555

Please be careful and attentive as you enjoy outdoor activities described in this brochure. The surf can be dangerous and mountain streams can flash flood, so never hike or swim alone, and seek advice if you're not sure about conditions.



Punalu'u



Forever Suspended Between
the Land and the Sea

*"We were the only people on the beach on
Saturday afternoon. It was incredible."
(first-time visitors from New York)*

Produced by the Hawaii Ecotourism Association
with funding from a Hawaii Tourism Authority
Product Development Grant. Coordinator: Leon Watson,
with Dr. Linda Cox and Brett Esaki of CTAHR.



Cooperative Extension Service
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawaii at Manoa



PUNALU'U

This logo represents kalo (taro), a versatile food crop that Hawaiians have cultivated from their earliest history. Kalo is a staple not only in the Hawaiian diet, but also in Hawaiian mythology, where it holds the highly honored status of ancestor to the Hawaiian people. Over the centuries, Hawaiian mahi 'ai (farmers) developed more than 300 distinct varieties of kalo, whose tuberous root is mashed and cooked to make poi, and whose leaves are used as wrappings and baked in numerous other popular dishes.

The name Punalu'u has two parts: puna, which in this use means "coral," and lu'u, which means "to dive or dip into." Translated together in the context of this locale, Punalu'u means "to dive for coral," a probable reference to the practice of Hawaiian women who dove for coral to prepare a lime-based bleach used to dye their hair.

Such natural resources in Punalu'u have continued to play a large part in its history; coral was harvested in more recent times to make lime for construction mortar, which went into many structures such as the Lanakila Church in Hau'ula. Tradewinds stalled by the mountains create clouds and misty showers in the afternoons, and this rainfall creates habitat for many species of plants and animals. Indeed, the average rainfall in the forests above Punalu'u is more than 250 inches a year, making the upper valley one of the wettest spots on O'ahu. Because of this, the army during WWII conducted jungle warfare training in the forests of Punalu'u and Kahana.



The railroad that once ran the length of the windward coast had a stop in this fertile valley, and before that, a pier was located at the mouth of Waiono Stream, from which rice and other crops were shipped to Honolulu. Continued use of the land for agriculture has allowed residents of Punalu'u to practice time-honored traditions, while recent efforts to grow vegetables and organic crops are meeting a growing demand for such specialty items.



In addition to agriculture, natural areas and parks are at the heart of this community. Punalu'u Beach Park lends the community its beach identity: palm trees line the road and fishermen wade the shoreline casting or netting in the surf. The south end of the Park is bordered by the mouth of Waiono Stream, which in its natural form flowed deep and fast enough to create a near-shore channel that was a safe haven for overnighing schooners and steamships. The stream has since been channeled and otherwise restricted, and no longer flows vigorously to the ocean; nevertheless, children (and select adults) can still be seen cooling themselves on hot days by jumping from Waiono Bridge into the shallow stream—an enjoyment that is illegal but not vigorously policed.

One of the most famous temples on O'ahu, dedicated to the Hawaiian demigod Kamapua'a, was located near Punalu'u Beach Park. Kamapua'a was a mischievous god who annoyed the Hawaiians of Punalu'u by stealing their chickens. Husband to the goddess Pele, Kamapua'a also was son of the fabled hog wizard Kupua, and was changeable in form from handsome man to hog to fish. He is said to have scaled the mountains behind Punalu'u, leaving the marks of his hooves as furrows (wa'a) in the cliffs; thus the Hawaiian name, Kaliuwa'a, for the place more commonly known as Sacred Falls. Sacred Falls State Park covers 1375 forested acres and features a large pool at the base of an 80-foot waterfall. Unfortunately, a tragic rockslide in 1999 killed eight people at the pool, and liability concerns have since caused the park to be closed indefinitely.

Catholic missionaries brought their religion, education and healthcare to the area in the 1800s, and the simple frame structure of St. Joaquim Catholic Church reminds us of their efforts. In fact, the kama'aina (Hawai'i-born) family of William and Kukeakalani Lane was a direct result of this. William, son of an Irish Catholic family, married Kukeakalani, daughter of Hawaiian Ali'i (nobility), and together they raised a dozen children, many of whom supported Queen Lili'uokalani as she tried to preserve the Hawaiian monarchy and the sovereignty

of the Hawaiian nation in the mid to late 1890s. Lili'uokalani's goals and justifications were increasingly opposed by a growing number of merchants, missionaries and other proponents of "democratic governance," and in 1893 they succeeded in deposing her in favor of a provisional government that took power with U.S. aid. By 1898 Hawai'i had become a U.S. territory, and it was admitted as the 50th U.S. state in 1959. Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, a later member of the monarchy, founded Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate, Hawai'i's largest land trust. The trust owns about 9% of all land in the state, including much of the land around Punalu'u. Proceeds from the Estate provide for the education of Hawaiian children at Kamehameha Schools.



Kaya's store, and other Mom-and-Pop places like it along the coast, are still hubs of our windward communities. Jinhichi Kaya and his wife arrived from Japan in 1910 to work on a sugar plantation. The family raised kalo in Punalu'u Valley and later sold tofu, fish, ice and other merchandise. They opened their general merchandise store in 1946, and it has met the needs of the community for more than 50 years. Ching's store (now the Punalu'u Store) was founded 65 years ago by Yan Quong Ching, the son of a Chinese plantation worker. This store was very popular during World War II with the soldiers training in Punalu'u Valley. And Punalu'u Art Gallery and The Wax Revolution occupy another old store, selling works of art in many forms, including pictures, crafts and souvenirs.



The Punalu'u Restaurant (formerly Ahi's) is famous for its shrimp, and just the place to relax after a day of sightseeing. Many of the trees on the property were among the first imported fruit trees and tropical hardwoods planted on O'ahu. This site may also have been where the first non-native bamboo was introduced to Hawai'i. As for accommodations, the Countryside Cabins are reasonable, and offer rustic bunkhouses, camping and hammocks; there is also a pavilion for activities and campfires. Pat's at Punalu'u offers condo rentals.