

Kahalu'u Bay Cultural Sites

IN TIMES PAST, KAHALU'U BEACH WAS A PLACE THAT WAS BOTH SACRED AND LIFE GIVING. THE LAND, WATER, AND OCEAN RESOURCES GAVE LIFE TO THE ALI'I AND PEOPLE OF THE LAND. ITS' SACREDNESS IS WITNESSED BY THE WEALTH OF CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THIS AREA.



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- 1** Ku'emanu Heiau was named for a clever warrior-champion who served chief Kahalu'u-kai-ākea. Ceremonies were conducted in this temple to raise good surfing waves.
- 2** Waiku'i pūnāwai (Waiku'i, one of the noted springs of this land).
- 3** Awa pae wa'a o Keawaiki (Canoe landing of Keawaiki).
- 4** Ka-wai-o-Pāpā pūnāwai (spring of Ka-wai-o-Papa, another noted spring of Kahalu'u).
- 5** 'Ōhi'amukumuku Heiau stood in a position of command over the village of Kahalu'u. Below the site was a stone called Lapauila, described as a "strangling stone" which has since been moved to Hulihe'e Palace. According to local tradition a criminal was laid upon the stone and choked with a rope that passed around his

neck and through the hole in the stone. Other local information was that the *heiau* was used in state worship as a place for offering human victims.

The body of King Kamalālāwalu of Maui was ceremoniously displayed at 'Ōhi'amukumuku heiau following his sacrifice by King Lono-i-ka-makahiki in Ke'ekū Heiau. The ruins of old Helani Church, largely built of rocks from the ancient *heiau*, now occupies part of the site.

- 6** Waikua'a'ala loko wai, a rectangular pond, was once the *kapu* bathing-place of chiefs. Walled enclosures extended out and around from Waikua'a'ala to keep the area private.

On the mauka side of Waikua'a'ala was the stone called 'Ohū. Prayers were offered at the stone, while tapping on it, to cause the surf to rise. Also on the side of 'Ohū was the entrance to the cave Ki'ioū, which led inland to 'Ōhi'amukumuku Heiau.

- 7** An *awa pae wa'a* and *hālau wa'a* (canoe landing and long house) were situated on the shore in this vicinity. It is also believed that the picnic pavilion sits on the site of a *heiau*.

- 8** Mokuahi'ole, a *heiau* and *hale ali'i* (royal residence) of Ke'eaumoku and Nāmahana mā. Ke'eaumoku was one of the "Kona Uncles" who helped Kamehameha I in his rise to power. Ke'eaumoku and his wife Nāmahana were also the parents of Ka'ahumanu and Kuakini. Ka'ahumanu was a favored wife of Kamehameha I, and Kuakini was an important chief in the history of Kahalu'u and Kona, as well.

- 9** The *loko wai* (pond) and land surrounding Po'ohawai'i, marks the site of the *hale ali'i* of Kamehameha I, Ka-lua-i-Kona-hale Kuakini, and later, King David Kalākaua. It was also the site where Isaaka Lāna'i prepared the *iwi* (remains) of Kuakini for burial.

- 10** The former residence of Isaaka Lāna'i, a priest of Kapuanoni and patriarch of native families of Kahalu'u. The *kū'ula* (fishing deity) Kanaio was set in the wall of the enclosure around this dwelling.

- 11** Kapuanoni heiau. A temple used to bring about the increase of food crops and fish.

- 12** In the sea near Kapuanoni Heiau is a *kū'ula* named Pōhaku o 'Ulupalakua after the name of its former home on Maui, from where it came by canoe. To spare it loneliness in its strange new home, a companion stone, Pōhaku o Kanaio, was similarly imported from Kanaio, Maui, and now stands facing the sea in a stone wall just back from the beach.

- 13** A little seaward of Kalanikai, out on a small flat of *pāhoehoe*, lies the once chiefly bathing pool of Poho o Kapo, commemorative of Kapo, a sister of the great volcano goddess Pele.

- 14** Just outside this photo is the Ka-pā-o-ka-menehune (the Menehune wall), a long group of rocks extending from shore with which one of our *ali'i* hoped to enclose Kahalu'u Bay, thus making a fishpond to nurture the community.

Tradition recalls that the *menehune*, a small, industrious people of antiquity were going to turn the bay into a fishpond. Hinamoa, the high priest of Ku'emanu Heiau, was fearful that it would ruin the surfing beach so he tricked them into stopping their work, which always had to be completed before sunrise. In order to thwart the work of the *menehune*, a rooster was heard calling in the night, thus the *menehune* thought daylight was approaching, and they ended their work on the wall, leaving the task incomplete.

Kahalu'u ua 'āina ala i ka wai puka iki o Helani.

Kahalu'u is the land known for the little spring that rises at Helani.

A saying of affection of the land of Kahalu'u, where fresh water is found seeping out of the ground at the shore.