

MARINE LIFE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



Hawaii

At left: Hanauma Bay, Oahu - Hawaii's first, and by far most popular, Marine Life Conservation District.

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Photos: p. 19 - Pete Hendricks; pp. 5,7,17 - Kevin Imai; aerial photos by Air Survey Hawaii; other photos by Randy Honebrink. Illustrations: Division of Aquatic Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Waikiki Aquarium, University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program. Text: Randy Honebrink

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September 1999

INTRODUCTION

One of Hawaii's most spectacular natural treasures is the wide variety of marine fishes that occur in the nearshore waters of the state. Over 400 species of inshore and reef fishes inhabit Hawaii's coastal waters.

There is remarkable diversity among these fishes. For example, over fifty species of brightly colored wrasses are found among the reefs, along with nearly thirty species of angel and butterfly fishes. Large predators such as jacks and sharks also inhabit the reef area. Each one of the 400-plus species has its own unique role in the nearshore environment.

The coastal waters of the islands feature a number of different habitats, each with its own characteristic marine life. Some fish are at home in sandy bottom areas, others in boulder-strewn waters off rocky shorelines. Tidepools provide "nursery" areas for young fish of many species.



The coral reef is the best known and most impressive of Hawaii's nearshore habitats. A healthy reef provides fish with abundant food resources and protection from predators. It is for this reason that reefs attract a great deal of marine life. The individual coral animals which create much of the reef are sensitive to changes in water quality, as are the microorganisms which form the base of the food chain. A reef habitat that becomes degraded as a result of pollution or siltation will lose its ability to support a diversity of marine life. Protecting reef and other nearshore ecosystems is necessary and challenging.



The need for MLCDs

Nearshore fishes have always played important roles in the lifestyles of Hawaii's people. Many of these fishes are commercially valuable, some as food fish and some as aquarium pets. Recreational fishing is enjoyed by many local residents. Snorkeling and SCUBA diving are popular activities with residents and tourists, and offer excellent opportunities to see reef fish in their natural environment.

Hawaii's recent history has shown that the state's growing population can have an adverse effect on nearshore fish populations. Protecting this important resource for the enjoyment of future generations is essential. Ideally, management of the resource should balance the needs of different user groups, but the welfare of the marine environment on which its inhabitants depend must be the most important consideration.

Marine Life Conservation Districts (MLCDs) are designed to conserve and replenish marine resources. MLCs usually allow only limited fishing and other consumptive uses. They provide fish and other aquatic life with a protected area in which to grow and reproduce, and are home to a great variety of species. Fishes in most MLCs are fairly tame and often show little fear of humans. MLCs are most popular as sites for snorkeling, diving and underwater photography.

MLCDs were introduced to Hawaii in the fall of 1967 with Hanauma Bay on Oahu. The resulting increase in fish populations was phenomenal, and the bay has become world famous. At the present time there are ten MLCs statewide, and other sites are being considered as well.

Before getting into the water, or even walking around near the water's edge, it's a good idea to watch the waves for about fifteen minutes or so to get a feel for their action. Waves come in sets, and although they may be small when you arrive at a site, a big set may come in a few minutes later.

Pay continuous attention to water conditions, since they can change rapidly. Waves generally tend to increase in size as the tide comes in. Increased surf will also cause currents to become stronger. These include longshore currents, which move water parallel to the shoreline, and rip currents, which carry water seaward.

Rip currents are usually found in reef channel areas or near the centers of bays. If you're caught in a rip current, you'll be carried seaward, probably until you're outside the surf zone where the current will dissipate. Don't try to swim against a rip current; you'll only wear yourself out. Remain calm, and swim parallel to shore until you're out of the rip.



Formation of a rip current.

Whether diving, snorkeling or swimming, it's best to be with a partner. Know your limitations, and don't snorkel out farther than you could swim back without your snorkeling gear. Keep track of where you are relative to land and your exit point. To avoid sunburn, it's a good idea to wear a shirt, especially if you're snorkeling during the peak sun hours from about 10 am to 2 pm.

When walking near tidepools or along rocky shorelines, be sure to wear the right kind of footwear. Slippers are not acceptable, since they'll come off too easily. Wear tabis or old sneakers, which provide good protection and fit tightly.

If walking on rocks near the water's edge, look for wet areas which indicate where waves are splash-

ing on the rocks. If you walk around on these areas, chances are you'll get splashed, too. The wave's force could knock you down on the rocks or into the water. Also look for wet areas of fresh-water runoff, which look like little streams on the rocks. Algae often grow in these spots, causing them to be extremely slippery.



Dangerous Marine Life

Most animals and some plants have natural defenses, and they'll probably try to defend themselves against you. If you're not sure what an animal is or what it might do to you, it's best to just leave it alone.

Never do anything to provoke fish, especially eels. Don't poke your fingers or hands into crevices or holes, since you never know what might be inside. Be careful where you step and what you grab with your hands. Animals that can puncture or sting are very common on the reef.

A few of the more common dangerous marine animals are listed below:

Portuguese Man-O-War are often found on beaches and in the water where on-shore winds are blowing. The purple float enables the wind to move the Man-O-War around the water, and the tentacles contain numerous stinging cells. Even when washed up on the beach, the tentacles will continue to sting, and popping the float won't kill the stinging cells. Severe reactions to the sting can include irregular breathing and heartbeat.



If stung, remove tentacles from the skin, and apply full strength vinegar or a paste of vinegar and meat tenderizer (unless the victim is allergic to papaya). Get medical attention immediately if the reaction is severe.

Coral has sharp edges which can cause abrasions, irritation, torn skin and possibly infections. Contrary to popular belief, coral will not continue to grow inside a cut.



If you suffer coral cuts, clean the cuts with rubbing alcohol, hydrogen peroxide or soap and water, then apply an antiseptic. If the cut is deep, consult a physician. Mild abrasions can be treated by soaking the irritated areas in a dilute vinegar solution.

Sea urchins (wana) have long brittle spines, some of which may be venomous on certain species. A puncture wound will result in throbbing pain and possible infection.



If poked by a sea urchin, soak the wound in hot water until the pain goes away, then apply undiluted vinegar. See a physician for removal of long embedded spines.

Moray eels generally look more intimidating than they are, but when provoked can cause considerable damage with their sharp teeth. Avoid trying to feed eels under any circumstances.



If bitten, clean the wound with soap and water and apply antiseptic. If the wound is serious, apply pressure and elevate to control bleeding, then get medical help as soon as possible.

More information on dangerous marine organisms is available in various local publications. The information presented here is based on the University of Hawaii Sea Grant Advisory Report UNIH-SEA-GRANT-AR-78-01, July 1978, University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program. Copies of the report are available from the publisher on request.



CONSERVATION TIPS

MLCDs have been successful at restoring marine life populations and protecting reef habitats. In addition to knowing and following the regulations for a particular District, you can further conserve marine resources by following these guidelines.

Avoid walking on the reef. Reef-building coral polyps are small, sensitive animals that are easily killed if stepped on. Aside from protecting the reef, you'll reduce the risk of stepping on something that could hurt you.

Feed fish with restraint. Peas, bread and other "people foods" are often used to bring fish around, but they are not part of a fish's natural diet and their nutritional value to a fish is questionable. Commercially available fish foods are better, but it's best to avoid feeding fish entirely. The natural environment provides everything fish need to eat, and you don't need to feed fish in order to see them.

Leave things as you found them. Collecting shells, coral and other souvenirs is prohibited in all MLCDs. Because of its importance in building habitat, the taking of live coral is prohibited in all state waters. Picking things up in order to examine them is discouraged, but if you feel you must then put them back as they were. Rocks and shells provide important habitat to creatures that live in or under them.

Take only what you need from the sea. If consumptive use (i.e. fishing) is allowed in a particular MLCD, don't overdo it. If you don't need to eat your catch, release it carefully so it can live to fight another day.

Dispose of trash properly. Throwing trash, especially plastics, into the ocean presents a hazard to fish and other aquatic life. Besides, it's illegal.

Report violations. If you see somebody fishing illegally, report them to enforcement officials. Discretely get an automobile license number if possible.

Following these suggestions will go a long way to conserving the nearshore environment, and help ensure that future generations can enjoy the same experiences available to you.

SITE DESCRIPTIONS

O'AHU



HANAUMA BAY

101 acres

Established 1967



Located near Koko Head at the eastern end of Honolulu, Hanauma Bay is about 15 minutes from Waikiki. Take Kalaniana'ole Highway (Hwy 72) from Honolulu or windward O'ahu to Hanauma Bay Road. Limited parking is available above the bay. Taxis are discouraged, but city bus service is available daily to the area. The beach park opens at 6:00 am, except Wednesdays when it opens at noon. Closing time is 6:00 pm during winter and 7:00 pm in summer (summer being considered the period when the mainland observes daylight savings time).

The MLCD extends from the highwater mark seaward to a line across the bay's mouth from Palea Point on the left to Pa'olu'olu Point on the right.

Hanauma Bay was formed by two of the many craters which created Koko Head. The bay's outer part is the result of one crater, and the inner part is

what remains of the second. The craters' seaward rims were eventually eroded by wave action.

Along both sides of the bay, just above sea level, is a wave-cut bench. The beach at the bay's head has large deposits of the mineral olivine, which results in green streaks near the water's edge.

The bay was popular with Hawaiian royalty, and a favorite fishing ground of King Kamehameha V.

A shallow fringing reef lies just offshore, with depths up to about 10 feet. The reef flat extends about 100 yards offshore, and has several large sandy-bottomed areas. Fish are abundant along the reef edges surrounding these sandy areas. Visibility is usually best at low tide and early in the day, before sediment is kicked up by snorkelers.

A channel near the bay's center, dredged for telephone cables, provides access to the outer reef flat. Coral beds are found just outside the fringing reef, especially on the right side. Numerous fishes, particularly schooling species, are found here. Turtles are also fairly common. Water depths range to about 30 feet, and visibility is generally good.



The outer bay is recommended only for experienced divers. Depths range up to about 70 feet, and there is a large finger coral reef on the left side. Visibility is often better here than in any other part of the bay.

Safety considerations

Areas to be avoided, especially during rough water conditions, include *Witches' Brew*, a small peninsula and cove on the right side of the bay, and *Toilet Bowl* (also called *Queen's Bath*), a small pool around the bay's left point.

Rip currents in the channel near the telephone cables can be strong, especially during ebb tides. The *Moloka'i Express*, a current near the left side of the bay's mouth, is also hazardous during these conditions.

Walking along the wave-cut benches is dangerous during big surf.

Lifeguards are on duty year round.

Facilities

Restrooms, showers, emergency and pay phones, snack bar.

Regulations

Prohibited activities include fishing for, taking, or injuring any marine life (including eggs) or shells, or possessing any type of fishing gear. Introducing any food or other substance to feed or attract marine life is prohibited. Taking or altering sand, coral, or other geological features, or possessing any equipment that may be used for that purpose is prohibited. Boating is not allowed within the bay.



PUPUKEA

25 acres

Established 1983



Located on the north shore of O'ahu, Pupukea Beach Park is on the Kahuku side of Waimea Bay, next to the Sunset Beach Fire Station. Take Kamehameha Highway (Hwy 83) from Hale'iwa or Kahuku to Waimea. Parking is available at the beach park. Bus service to the area is available daily.

The MLCD is located offshore of the beach park, from the highwater mark seaward to a line from the point at the beach park's southwestern end to Kulalua Point.

The district includes two major swimming areas, *Shark's Cove* and *Three Tables*, as well as the offshore region just north of Sharks' Cove. The tide-pool area to the left of Shark's Cove, though not part of the MLCD, is good for reef walking or snorkeling, depending on wave and tide conditions.

Shark's Cove, near the northern end of the MLCD, is a popular site for snorkeling, and is fairly shallow. Depths range up to 20 feet at the cove's mouth. Diving conditions are better outside the cove. Caves can be found around the cove's northwest point, and to a lesser extent to the south. The area to the left of the cove offers excellent night diving. The bottom outside the cove slopes to about 45 feet. Visibility is generally poor inside the cove, but improves quickly outside. The origin of the cove's name is uncertain, but sharks are no more common here than anywhere else on the island. Shark's Cove is one of the North Shore's most popular SCUBA destinations.

Three Tables cove, located at the district's southern end, gets its name from the three or four flat sections of reef visible at low tide. Snorkeling is good around and just outside the tables area, and diving conditions improve farther out. Water depths near the tables average about 15 feet, and the best diving is at depths of 30 to 45 feet. Many ledges, arches, lava tubes and other features are found near and outside the tables.

Safety considerations

From about May through October the water is generally calm, but surges are possible. During winter months current and wave conditions become extremely dangerous in all areas of the MLCD, as well as the tidepool area.

No lifeguards are on duty at the beach, but a fire station is located near the tidepools.

Facilities

Restrooms, showers, emergency and pay phones.

Regulations

Pole-and-line fishing for finfish is permitted from the shoreline, and taking of limu is also permitted. Spearfishing without SCUBA is permitted throughout the district, and use of nets is allowed in the MLCD's northern portion. SCUBA divers may transit the MLCD with fish taken outside the district. Any other taking of marine life is prohibited, as is the taking of sand, coral, shells or rocks.



WAIKIKI

76 acres

Established 1988



The Waikiki MLCD is located at the Diamond Head end of Waikiki Beach. There is limited parking in a small parking area by the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium. Street parking is available along Kalakaua Avenue. City buses also serve the area.

The MLCD extends from the groin at the end of Kapahulu Avenue to the ewa (west) wall of the Natatorium, from the highwater mark seaward a distance of 500 yards or to the edge of the fringing reef, whichever is greater.

A reef flat extends out from the Waikiki Aquarium seawall a distance of about 35 yards to a dredged channel, then continues on the other side of the channel. Most fish in this area are found along the channel's shoreline side (which has a number of small caves), along the Natatorium wall, and near the exposed parts of the reef on the channel's seaward side. The channel itself is about 8 feet deep, and depths above the reef flat are generally less than 3 to 4 feet.



The reef flat throughout the MLCD consists mostly of rubble and coralline algae with some small patches of live coral. Sediment covers the bottom, so visibility is best when there is little or no wave action. Most of the reef flat has little bottom relief, and fish are more concentrated in areas where relief increases somewhat. At the outer edge of the reef the bottom drops off sharply to about 15 to 20 feet. Numerous arches, crevices and other features are found here, along with an abundance of fish.

Safety considerations

Summer swells frequently bring high surf to the southern shoreline. Waves are particularly dangerous at the outer edge of the reef, where parts of the reef are exposed.

Lifeguards are on duty year round on the beach at the Waikiki end of the MLCD.

Facilities

Restrooms, showers, emergency and pay phones, snack bar.

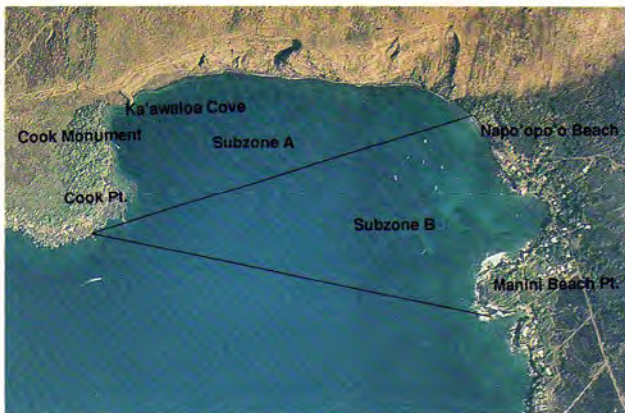
Regulations

No fishing, taking or injuring of any type of marine life (including eggs) or shells is permitted. Possession of fishing gear in the MLCD is prohibited.

Other prohibited activities include taking of sand, coral or other geological features, or possessing equipment that may be used for that purpose.



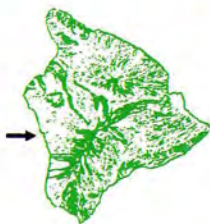
HAWAI'I



KEALAKEKUA BAY

315 acres

Established 1969



Located on the western coast of Hawai'i near the village of Captain Cook, Kealakekua Bay is about 30 minutes south of Kailua-Kona. The only access by car is to Napo'opo'o Beach, along the bay's eastern shoreline. Take Hwy 11 south from Kailua-Kona to the Napo'opo'o turn off (about 18 miles), then turn right and proceed 4 miles to the bay. Ka'awaloa Cove, at the bay's northern boundary, can be accessed only by boat, and a number of dive tours operate in the area.

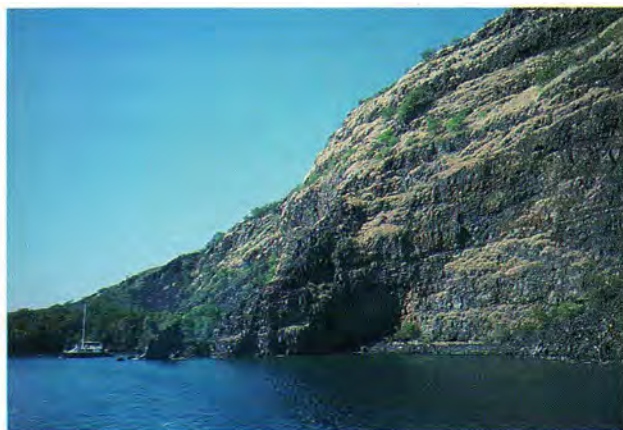
The MLCD extends from the highwater mark seaward to a line from Cook Point to Manini Beach Point. A line from Cook Point to the north end of Napo'opo'o Beach divides the district into Subzone A to the north and Subzone B to the south.

Kealakekua Bay's waters are nearly pristine, and its diversity of marine life is spectacular. The northern coastline is bordered by a sheer cliff (*Pali-kapu-o-Keoua*). On the *pali*'s face numerous lava tube openings are visible, some of which are ancient Hawaiian burial caves.

Captain James Cook, the British explorer who discovered Hawai'i in 1778, arrived at Kealakekua Bay in January 1779 during his second voyage to the islands. Thought by the natives to be a god, Cook was given royal treatment. But the following month he was killed in a skirmish on the shores of Ka'awaloa Cove following a series of incidents between his crew and the Hawaiians.

In 1878 a 27-foot monument was erected in Cook's honor by his countrymen near the site where he was killed. On the lava flats behind Cook Monument are the ruins of the ancient village of Ka'awaloa.

Within the bay, the Napo'opo'o area is generally shallow with little coral, but diving improves as you swim farther out. The area between the Napo'opo'o landing and the southern tip of Manini Beach Point is the most interesting within this portion of the MLCD. Encrusting coral, caves, crevices and ledges can be found in waters up to about 30 feet deep.



Pali-kapu-o-Keoua, on the northern coast of Kealakekua Bay. A charter boat is moored in Ka'awaloa Cove.

On the bay's northeastern side, the waters below the *pali* are good for snorkeling during calm water conditions. Abundant coral growth and marine life can be seen in waters of about 5 feet.

The bay's best diving is in Ka'awaloa Cove (near Cook Monument) where depths range from about 5 to 120 feet. The diversity of coral and fish is exceptional, and fish are quite tame.

Dolphins are commonly seen inside the bay.

Safety considerations

Conditions in the bay become dangerous during high surf and southern (*kona*) storms, but Ka'awaloa Cove is almost always calm.

No lifeguards are on duty at Napo'opo'o Beach.

Facilities

Restrooms, showers at Napo'opo'o Beach Park.

Regulations

No fishing, possession of fishing gear, taking or injuring of any type of marine life (including eggs) or shells is permitted in Subzone A. Hook-and-line and thrownet fishing for finfish is permitted in Subzone B. Any legal fishing method except traps may be used to take akule, opelu and crustaceans in Subzone B. Removal of sand, coral or other geological features, or possessing equipment for that purpose is prohibited throughout the MLCD.

Anchoring of boats is prohibited in Subzone A. In Subzone B anchors may only be dropped onto sand, or in such a way as to avoid damage to coral.

LAPAKAHI

146 acres

Established 1979

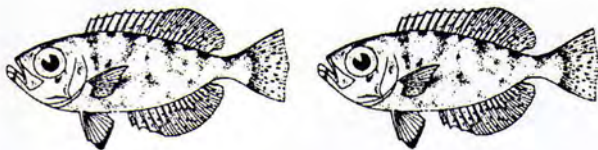


Located on the northwestern coast of Hawai'i, Lapakahi is about 12 miles north of Kawaihae. Take Hwy 270 north from Kawaihae to Lapakahi State Historical Park. The park entrance is on the left side of the highway, and marked with a sign. Parking is available at the end of the road.

The MLCD is divided into two subzones. Subzone A includes Koai'e Cove, and Subzone B includes the waters 500 feet outside of Subzone A and extending southward along the shoreline adjacent to the park, from the highwater mark to a distance of 500 feet offshore.

Lapakahi State Historical Park features excavated and partially reconstructed ruins of the ancient fishing village of Koai'e, dating back to the 1300s.

Within Koai'e Cove are two small beaches consisting of coral rubble (there is no sand beach). The cove provides the easiest access to the water. The nearshore bottom is mostly boulders and lava fingers with some coral. The cove's northern portion has some good coral growth close to shore, but coral and fish are most abundant in the southern portion. Considerable marine life is also found around the outcropping of rocks to the right of the cove's center.



The reef in general becomes more dense as you swim farther out. Depths within the cove range gradually from about 5 to 30 feet. Straight out from the cove, near the outer boundary of the MLCD, there is an abundance of coral and fishes at depths of about 60 to 80 feet.

South of the cove the bottom again consists mostly of boulders and lava fingers, but coral growth in some areas is particularly dense. The bottom gives way to sandy areas farther out, and depths within this part of the district range up to about 80 feet.

There is a remarkable diversity of fish species within the MLCD, as nearly all nearshore species typical of the North Kohala coast are represented. During the winter, humpback whales are frequently spotted just offshore.

Safety considerations

Strong longshore currents exist outside of Koai'e Cove, so swimmers and snorkelers should stay within the cove.

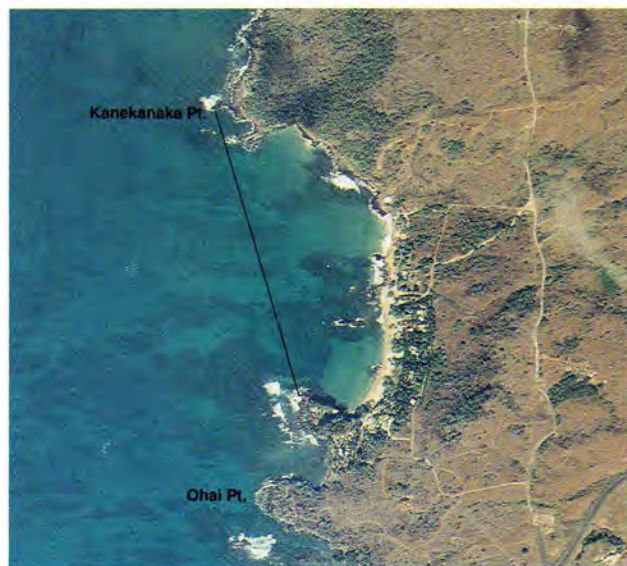
High surf occurs during winter months.

Facilities

Restrooms; freshwater available in limited quantities during park hours (contact the Division of State Parks).

Regulations

No fishing, taking or injuring of any type of marine life is permitted in Subzone A. Fishing for finfish or crustaceans is permitted with hook-and-line or thrownet in Subzone B. Opelu may be taken with lift net within Subzone B. No taking of sand, coral or other geological features, or possession of equipment for that purpose is permitted anywhere within the MLCD.



WAIALEA BAY

35 acres

Established 1985



Waialea Bay is located in the southern portion of Kawaihae Bay, on the western coast of Hawai'i. Take Hwy 19 north about 23 miles from Kailua-Kona (or south from Kawaihae about 5 miles), and turn onto Puako Beach Drive. Then take the first right onto Old Puako Road, and watch the numbers

on the telephone poles. Turn left between poles 69 and 70. The road is rough, but driveable. Parking is available near the beach.

The MLCD extends from the highwater mark seaward to a line from the point immediately north of Ohai Point to Kanekana Point.

Although access to Waialea Bay is not particularly easy, the site is popular with many Big Island residents. The beach (known locally as *Beach 69* because of the pole marker) erodes due to strong surf during winter months, but is pristine during the summer. The bay's bottom drops off gradually from the beach to depths of about 30 feet outside the bay's mouth. An intermittent stream enters the bay, and surface visibility is reduced during periods of freshwater intrusion.

The best reef is in the MLCD's southern portion, and extends out beyond the District's boundaries. Depths range from about 10 to 30 feet. Coral communities are also found around the rocky prominence inside the bay. The diversity of marine life in Waialea is among the best in all of Kawaihae Bay, which makes it a popular site for snorkel and SCUBA activities.

Humpback whales are often seen outside the bay during winter.

Safety considerations

Waialea is a somewhat sheltered bay, but high surf occurs during winter months.

No lifeguards are on duty at the beach.

Facilities

None.

Regulations

Fishing for finfish with hook-and-line is permitted. Netting finfish is allowed over sandy bottom areas with a permit. No other fishing, taking or injuring of any type of marine life, or possession of fishing gear is allowed. Taking of sand, coral or other geological features, or possessing equipment for that purpose is also prohibited.



OLD KONA AIRPORT

217 acres

Established 1992



Old Kona Airport is located on the western coast of Hawai'i just west of Kailua-Kona town. At the intersection of Palani Road and Kuakini Hwy turn west and proceed past the old industrial area. Ample parking is available the whole length of the old runway, fronting the beach.

The MLCD includes the waters offshore of the Old Kona Airport State Park and adjacent private properties. It is bounded by a straight line seaward 500 yards from the western end of the park, to a straight line seaward 500 yards from the Kailua lighthouse. A "No Boating Zone" exists in the waters off the park as indicated.

The single day use mooring can be found offshore of the prominent "Shark Rock" toward the MLCD's northwestern boundary. Water depth at the mooring is about 40 feet.

A few inlets and sand channels along the park frontage provide swimming entry in calm waters. A reef shelf east of "Shark Rock" provides a surfing break. Between the eastern end of the park frontage and Kuka'ilimoku Point is a large sandy tidepool just inland of the rocky shore where families often take children to swim.

Snorkelers and shore SCUBA divers usually enter the water at a partially protected cove at the northwestern end of the beach. Another diving entry, usable in calm to moderate waters, is at the southeastern end of the old airstrip, where the lava

shoreline forms a semi-protected basin and divers can jump into the water.

The reef fronting the park consists of numerous low profile shallow fingers of lava, extending offshore to depths up to 50 feet. Beyond this depth the bottom drops off quickly into very deep water. Coral cover is substantial in the area, with a diverse population of reef fishes. Turtles and rays are often seen. Snorkeling is good within about 50 yards of the shoreline.

Safety considerations

Snorkelers and divers should exercise caution when entering the water due to sharp coral and lava rock along the entire frontage of the park.

Dangerous swells and currents along the shoreline accompany summer or winter storms.

No lifeguards are on duty at the time of this printing, but are planned in the future.

Facilities

Restrooms, showers, emergency and pay phones.

Regulations

Fishing for finfish for home consumption is permitted from shore using thrownet or pole and line (without reel). Night handline fishing for akule is allowed, as is opelu fishing with lift or opelu net. Use of the state mooring is permitted for not longer than three hours per boat each day on a first come, first served basis. Commercial dive and tour operations may be conducted at the mooring and from shore with a permit.

No other taking of fish or marine life is permitted. Taking of sand, coral or other geological features, or possession of equipment for that purpose is prohibited. Other activities prohibited inside the MLCD include feeding fish, anchoring watercraft, operating motorboats in the "No Boating Zone", and conducting commercial dive/tour activities without a permit.



LANA'I



MANELE - HULOPO'E



309 acres

Established 1976

Manele and Hulopo'e are adjacent bays on the southern coast of Lana'i. Take Hwy 441 eight miles from Lana'i City to the coast. Parking is available at either bay. If arriving by boat to Manele Harbor, Hulopo'e Bay is about a 10 to 15 minute walk.

The MLCD is divided into two subzones. Subzone A extends from the highwater mark seaward to a line from Kaluako'i Point to Flat Rock, then to Pu'u Pehe Rock. Subzone B extends from the highwater mark seaward to a line from Pu'u Pehe Rock to Kalaeokahano Point.

Manele and Hulopo'e Bays are separated by a volcanic cone, eroded on the seaward edge to form Pu'u Pehe Cove. A sea stack, Pu'u Pehe Rock, is located just offshore of the cove's left point.

The ruins of the ancient fishing village of Manele extend from the area just inland of Manele Small Boat Harbor to Hulopo'e Beach Park.

Within Manele Bay corals are most abundant along the sides of the bay near the cliffs, where the bottom slopes off quickly to about 40 feet. The middle of the bay is a sand channel. Just outside the west-

ern edge of the bay near Pu'u Pehe rock is "First Cathedrals", a popular SCUBA destination.

Hulopo'e Bay has large tidepools at its left point. A shallow reef is just offshore, providing excellent snorkeling opportunities.

Pu'u Pehe Cove has clear water and considerable marine life. Coral growth is interspersed with sand patches, and most coral is found away from the narrow beach in about 10 to 15 feet of water.

Safety considerations

All areas can have dangerous swells and currents during southern (*kona*) storms.

Access to Pu'u Pehe Cove is dangerous. The cliffs are steep, and the loosely packed lava results in unstable footing.

Boat traffic is common in Manele Bay.

Facilities

Restrooms at Manele, showers at Manele and Hulopo'e.

Regulations

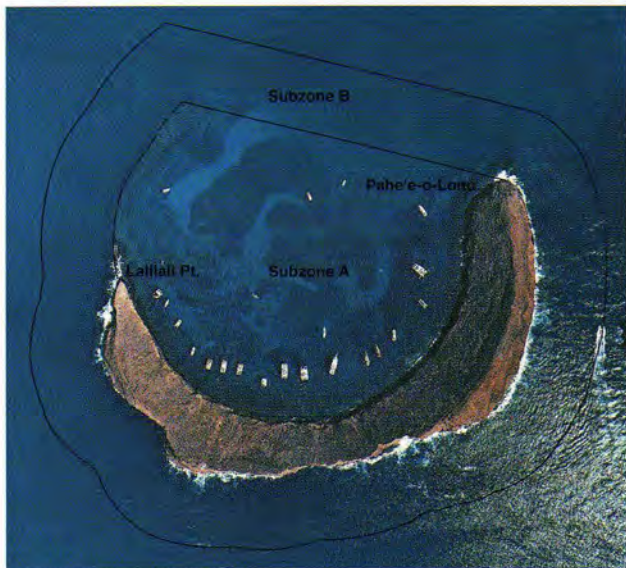
Hook-and-line fishing for finfish is permitted from the shoreline in Subzone A. Fishing by any legal method except spear, trap or net other than throw-net is permitted in Subzone B. Any other type of fishing, taking or injuring of marine life is prohibited. Taking of any sand, coral or other geological feature is also prohibited. Manele Small Boat Harbor is a Fisheries Management Area, and net fishing is permitted subject to certain restrictions.

No boating is permitted within Subzone A.



Hulopo'e Bay. Hulopo'e Beach is visible in the distance at left. To the right is Pu'u Pehe Rock.

MAUI



MOLOKINI SHOAL



77 acres

Established 1977

Molokini is a crescent shaped islet located in the 'Alalakeiki Channel about 3 miles off Maui's southwestern coast. Access is by boat only, and charter boats operate out of Lahaina, Ma'alaea Harbor and Kihei.

Molokini islet is the southern rim of an extinct volcanic crater. The shallow inner cove is the crater's submerged floor. Black coral was once found in abundance in the deeper waters around Molokini, but was harvested extensively. Harvesting is now restricted, and small colonies can be found on the islet's back wall.

The MLC is divided into two subzones. Subzone A includes the cove, bounded by a line extending from the end of the submerged ridge off Lalilali Point to Pahe'e O Lono Point. Subzone B extends 100 yards seaward of the islet and Subzone A.

There is no sand beach on Molokini. The cove area slopes off from the shoreline to a depth of about 100 feet before dropping off. The bottom consists of sand patches, coral and basaltic boulders. A shallow reef in less than thirty feet of water extends from the shoreline northward at the islet's northwestern point. The diversity of fishes and other marine life within the MLC is among the most impressive in the state. Even humpback whales have been known to enter the cove.

The back (southern) side of the islet has a steep face that drops off to depths of over 200 feet. Small patches of coral are scattered across the wall. Crevices and outcroppings harbor large populations of fishes.

Safety considerations

Currents can always be a problem outside of the cove, and may get stronger inside during the afternoon when winds pick up.

When diving the back wall be sure to keep an eye on your depth gauge.

Facilities

None.

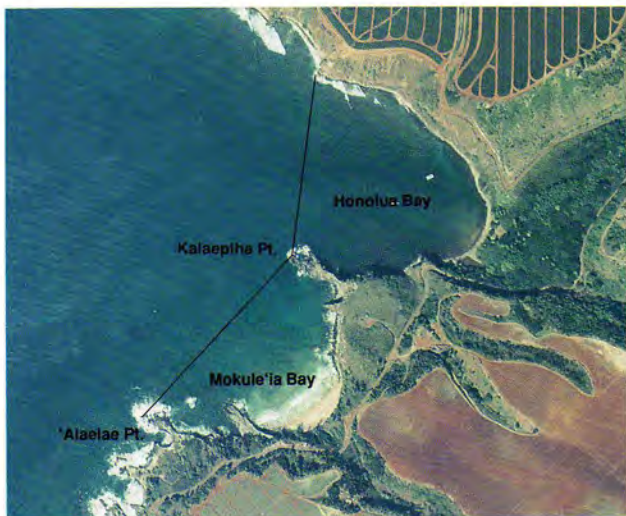
Regulations

Fish feeding is prohibited. Trolling is permitted in Subzone B. Any other type of fishing, fishing gear, taking or injuring of marine life is prohibited. Taking of sand, coral or other geological features, or possessing equipment for that purpose is prohibited.

Anchoring boats will be prohibited once a permanent mooring system is installed. Existing temporary moorings should be used on a first come, first served basis.

Molokini is a state seabird sanctuary, and entry onto the islet is prohibited.





HONOLUA - MOKULE'IA BAY



45 acres

Established 1978

Honolua Bay is located on the northwestern coast of Maui, about 10 miles north of Lahaina along Honoapi'ilani Highway (Hwy 30). The bay is the only one in the area visible from the highway. Parking is available only alongside the highway.

Mokule'ia Bay is southwest of, and adjacent to, Honolua. The beach at Mokule'ia, known locally as Slaughterhouse (because there once was a slaughterhouse on the cliffs above) is accessible along a stairway down the cliffs. Again, parking is found only along the highway.

The MLCD extends from the highwater mark seaward to a line from 'Alaelae Point to Kalaepiha Point, then to the point at the northwestern corner of Honolua Bay.

Honolua Stream carries varying amounts of silt into Honolua Bay. As a result, inshore waters of the bay near the boat ramp area are usually very murky. The bottom here consists of small boulders and silt. Visibility improves as you swim farther out, or to the sides. The middle of the bay is a featureless sand channel, sloping gradually to a depth of about 60 feet at the bay's mouth.

On either side of the bay are dense coral growths, in waters about 10 to 40 feet deep. Coral is more abundant and diverse along the northeastern shoreline. Small caves and archways are found near the point on the bay's left side.

The bottom at Mokule'ia Bay is mostly sand. At the right point are large submerged boulders, and fingers of lava occur along the left point. Both points offer good coral growth. Depths range from about ten to fifty feet. If the water is calm enough, you can snorkel from one bay to the other.

Safety considerations

Waters should be avoided during winter months, when high surf is common.

Use caution going down the cliffs to Mokule'ia Bay.

Facilities

None.

Regulations

Fishing for, taking or injuring any type of marine life is prohibited, as is the possession in the water of any type of fishing gear. However, possession of fishing gear, or fish taken outside of the District, is permitted aboard boats. Bagging and removing akule netted outside of the District is allowed with a special permit.

All Marine Life Conservation Districts are established under Title 13 of the Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR). Copies of the complete rules are available at Division of Aquatic Resources offices. The table below lists the chapter which applies to each MLCD.

Site	Chapter
OAHU	
Hanauma Bay	28
Pupukea	34
Waikiki	36
HAWAII	
Kealakekua Bay	29
Lapakahi	33
Waialea Bay	35
Old Kona Airport	37
LANAI	
Manele-Hulopoe	30
MAUI	
Molokini Shoal	41
Honolua-Mokuleia Bay	32

