



## Walking in the Ancestors' Footsteps

The arrival of Polynesians via ocean trails, around 1,500 years ago, resulted in large changes to the plants and animals on the west side of the island of Hawai'i: partial clearing of dry land vegetation (such as sandalwood and *loulou* palms), planting of crops such as coconuts and taro, and the introduction of pigs, dogs, and chickens. The development of the *ahupua'a* system of land use, however, meant that the island population lived for many centuries on the island's natural resources. Established in 2000 for the preservation, protection, and interpretation of traditional native Hawaiian culture and natural resources, the *Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail* is a 175-mile trail corridor full of this cultural and natural heritage.



hālau wa'a, canoe house



Kaloko Fishpond

### Challenging Journeys



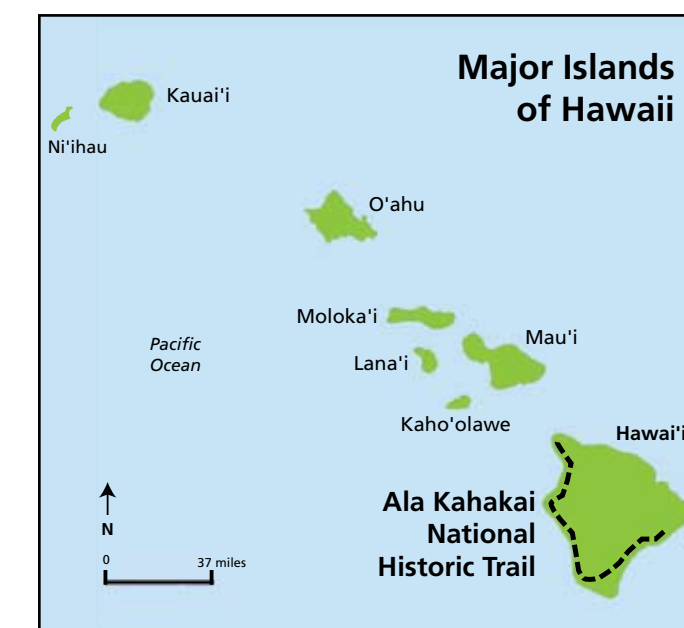
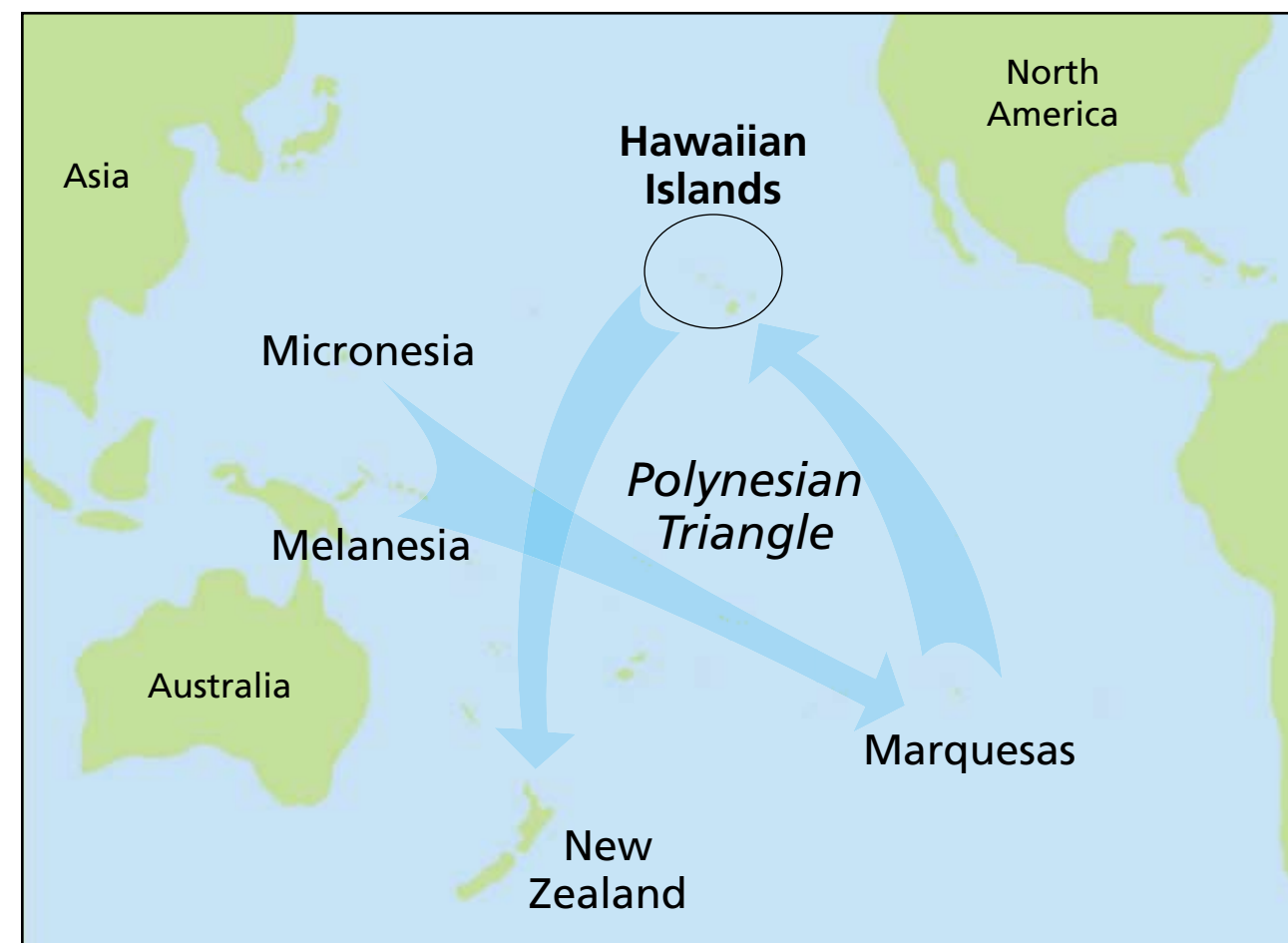
Taurus constellation



Polynesian sailing canoe replicas

### Ocean Trails: the beginnings of change

The early Polynesians were skilled ocean navigators who traveled long distances on double-hulled canoes capable of carrying colonists as well as all their supplies, domestic animals, and plants. Navigating by the stars, ocean swells, and bird flight patterns, they sailed eastward, crossing thousands of miles of ocean to colonize many Pacific islands in the area known today as the Polynesian Triangle.



Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail on the island of Hawai'i.

### First Introductions



kalo, cultivated taro



chickens, a Polynesian arrival

### Keeping Connected

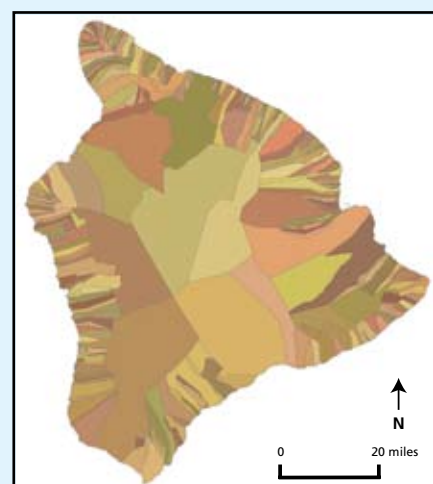


outrigger canoe replica



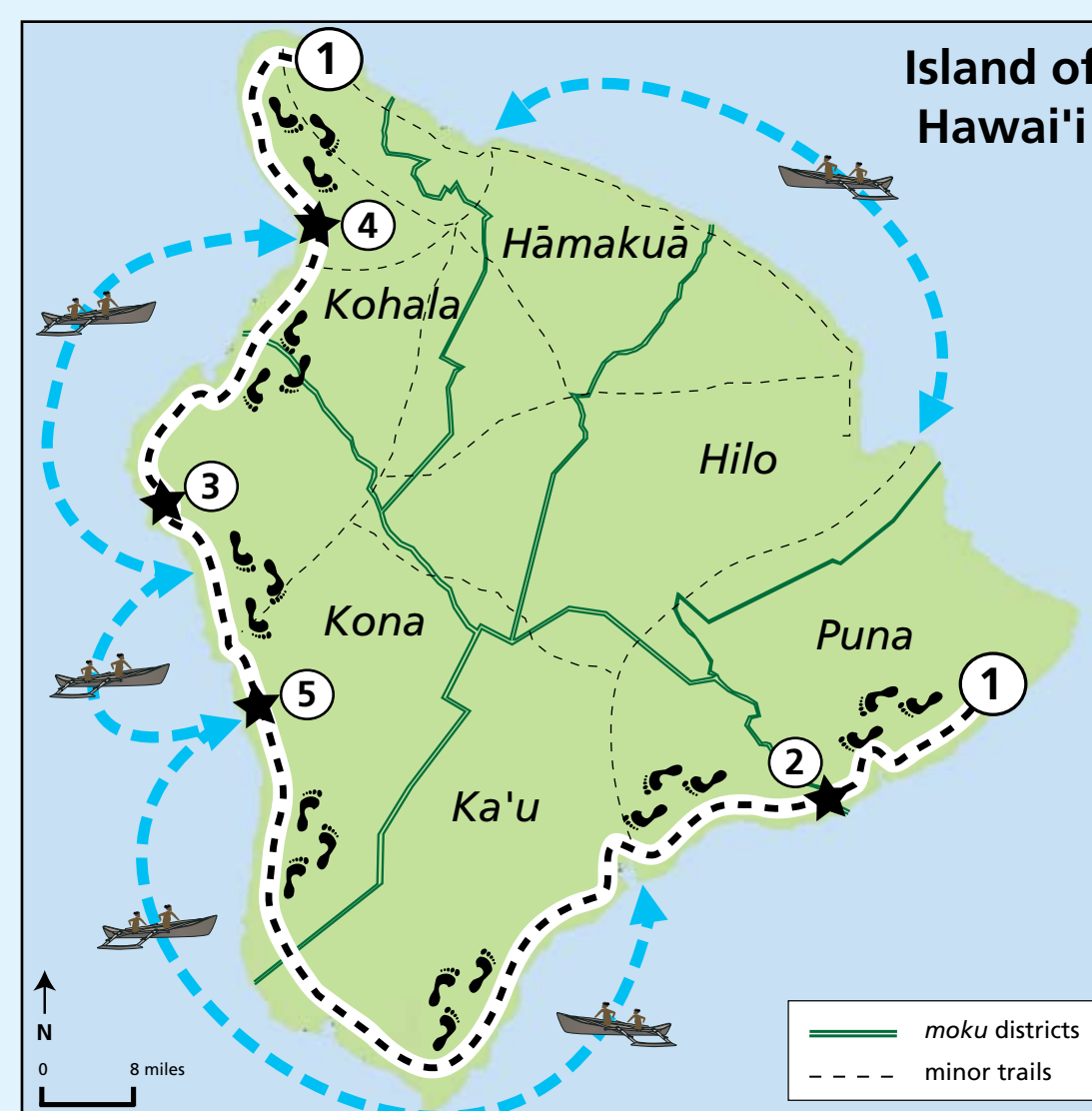
ancient coastal trail

The traditional Hawaiian land use system created six *moku* districts (right): Kona, Kohala, Hāmakuā, Hilo, Puna, and Ka'u.



*Moku's* were further divided into *ahupua'a* sections (above).

### Island Trails: connecting a kingdom



Historic land trails and water trails provided the means for people to trade and communicate.



cultural festival re-creation

- 1 Ala Kahakai Historic Trail
- 2 Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
- 3 Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park
- 4 Pu'ukoholā Heiau National Historic Site
- 5 Pu'uohonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park

### Changing Needs



Alahaka ramp on Trail



traditional fishing

### Sacred Landscapes



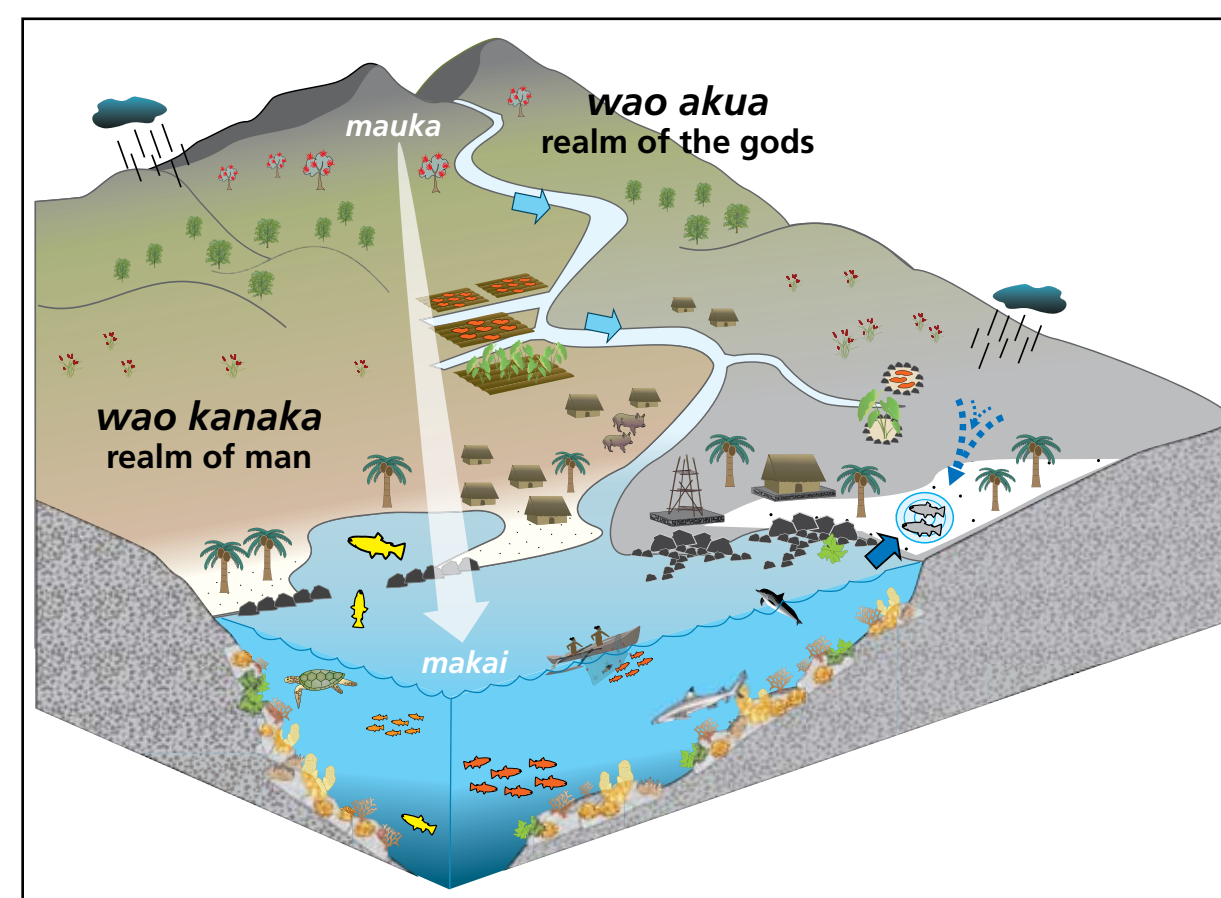
early Hawaiian stone etchings



lele (offering tower) site

### Ahupua'a Trails: uniting the lands of the gods and the people

A typical *ahupua'a*, or land division, was wedge-shaped and extended from *mauka* (the mountains) to *makai* (the sea). As water flowed from the upland forest, down through the *ahupua'a*, it passed from the *wao akua* (the realm of the gods) to the *wao kanaka* (the realm of man), where it sustained agriculture, aquaculture, and other human uses.



- forests and grasslands
- settlements
- sacred sites
- irrigated agriculture
- groundwater and salt water flow
- fish farming
- marine life

### Managed Landscapes



invasive plant removal notice



native loulou palm planting

### A Vision for Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail

1797	1848	1892	present
Mamalahoe, law of the splintered paddle, provided safe public access to all trails	Great Mahele, private property laws, removed guaranteed access to trails	1892 Highways Act ensured that all people could cross the island on public lands	much of the Ala Kahakai coastal trail remains under private ownership

Because much of the coastal trail remains under private ownership, the largest threat to its cultural and natural resources is rapid development (cattle ranching, hotels, houses, golf courses, marinas, light industry, and roads), bringing with it a multitude of invasive plant and animal species. Securing the *Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail* as land accessible to the public will provide an opportunity for future generations to learn about and preserve Hawaii's unique cultural and natural resources.



access for all to coastal trails



ALA KAHAKAI NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL [www.nps.gov/alka](http://www.nps.gov/alka)  
 PACIFIC ISLAND NETWORK INVENTORY & MONITORING PROGRAM  
 National Park Service  
<http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/pacn/>

INTEGRATION & APPLICATION NETWORK (IAN)  
 University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science  
[www.ian.umces.edu](http://www.ian.umces.edu)



present trail access limitations