

# A Place of Refuge for Cultural and Natural Resources



Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park has an incredible wealth of cultural and natural features shaped by early Hawaiian settlement patterns. Post-contact land management included historic ranching, recreational use, and vegetation removal. Today, many of these features are threatened by prolific, invasive plants, sea level rise, and other natural and human-caused disturbances. Introduced, fast-growing, invasive plants continue to out-compete native plant species and damage historic and prehistoric structures. Once a sanctuary of life, the park is now a place of refuge to the cultural and natural resources within, where they are preserved for present and future generations.



#### early 1600s

Pu'uhonua and the **Great Wall are** established

#### mid-1700s

Hale o Keawe (temple and mausoleum) is constructed

#### 1819

The *kapu* system is overthrown and many heiau (temples) are destoyed

### 1829

The deified bones of 23 chiefs are removed from Hale o Keawe and buried elsewhere

# late 1800s

After the Bishop Estate buys the property, efforts toward preservation begin

#### 1961

Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park is established

# approx. 1650

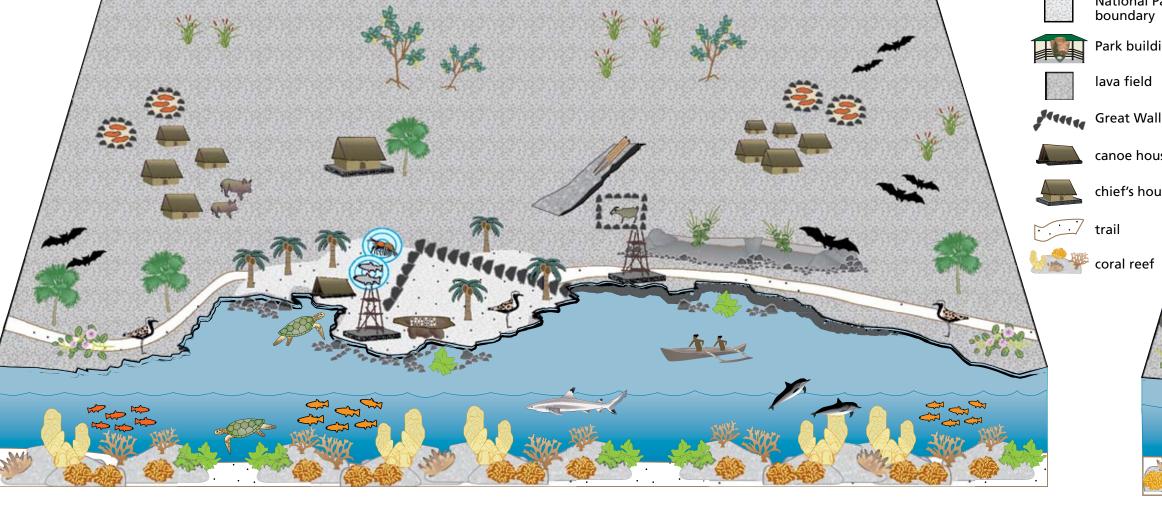
## Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park

Park building

lava field

canoe house

#### present



#### Cultural and Natural Resources



villages and sacred sites such as heiau (temples) were built along the coast



kōnane (game of strategy) and hōlua (stone slides) amused the ali'i (chiefs)

native and introduced plants were

farmed fish for the ali'i (chiefs)

(red shrimp) used for fishing bait



grown for cultural and domestic use Heleipālala, the royal fishpond, provided



brackish pools were habitat for 'opae



a few harmful species, such as rats, arrived unseen with the Polynesians



Hawaiian hoary bats, one of only two native land mammals, fed on the coast



early Polynesians brought many plants and animals for their use





some historic sites have been restored and remain culturally significant



out some domestic and feral animals native and rare plant species find

partially fenced park boundaries keep



invasive plants are removed and native plants are restored

habitat in cliffs and on coastlines



fragile brackish pools continue to support unique and rare species



endangered bats, sea turtles, and shorebirds still visit the park grounds

#### Threats and Human Impacts



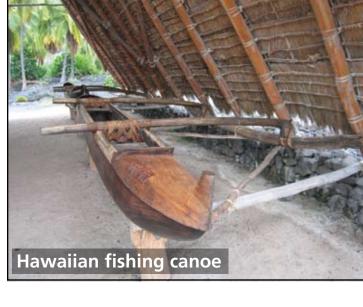
cattle and feral animals spread invasive plants in the park



introduced cats, rats, and mongoose threaten native bird populations



storm surf, subsidence, and rising sea levels cause beach erosion













### Cultural and Natural Resources

# cultural and historic sites

native or culturally significant plants migratory and resident native shorebirds



# Threats and Human Impacts

# natural and human-caused damage to sites

invasive plants outcompeting native plants

introduced mammals reducing bird populations

sea turtles disturbed by visitors

## Management Initiatives

#### • stabilization and rehabilitation of sites

• remove invasives and restore native plants

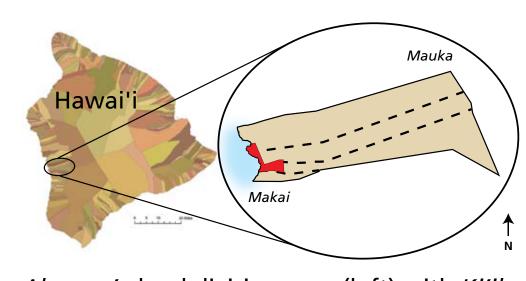
reduce habitat for small predatory mammals

educate visitors and monitor activities



Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park (star) on the island of Hawai'i.





Ahupua'a land division map (left) with Ki'ilae watershed (circled) and park (red).