



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 destroyed

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

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 grown for cultural and domestic use

Heleipālala, the royal fishpond, provided farmed fish for the ali'i (chiefs)

brackish pools were habitat for 'opae (red shrimp) used for fishing bait

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

Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park

present

some historic sites have been restored and remain culturally significant

partially fenced park boundaries keep out some domestic and feral animals

native and rare plant species find habitat in cliffs and on coastlines

invasive plants are removed and native plants are restored

fragile brackish pools continue to support unique and rare species

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

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

Hawaiian fishing canoe

Heleipālala Fishpond

invasive roots dislodge ancient walls

koa haole, a highly invasive tree

protecting sacred sites

loulou, a native fan palm

cultural and historic sites

native or culturally significant plants

migratory and resident native shorebirds

native sea turtles

natural and human-caused damage to sites

invasive plants outcompeting native plants

introduced mammals reducing bird populations

sea turtles disturbed by visitors

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 Hawaii'i.

Pu'UHONUA O HōNAUNAU NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK [www.nps.gov/puho](http://www.nps.gov/puho)

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)

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