



Kalaupapa National Historical Park — Moloka'i

History: In 1865, King Kamehameha V signed the “Act to Prevent the Spread of Leprosy” to officially recognize the concern in the Hawaiian Kingdom. As part of the act, the most advanced and incurable cases were exiled to the island of Moloka'i where a leprosy settlement was established on the Kalaupapa peninsula. Through the heroic efforts of Father Damien DeVeuster and others, the patients' lives were transformed as they were treated with dignity and respect. Then in the 1940's a sound treatment for Hansen's disease (leprosy) was discovered. Finally, in 1969 the state abolished the isolation law which allowed patients to move freely from the peninsula. Kalaupapa National Historical Park (KALA) preserves the historic Kalaupapa settlement, community, and the current lifestyle of the remaining Hansen's disease patients. The Kalaupapa Leprosy Settlement is a landmark on the National Register of Historic Places.

Cultural Resources: The park's most significant cultural resource is the Hansen's disease patients, who continue to live in Kalaupapa. Their presence and knowledge make this park unique in the national park system. There are 400 homes, churches, and other structures which interpret the history of the settlements and serve as a tangible reminder of life at Kalaupapa. Looking further back, archeological remains, including the stone ruins of ancient temple sites and terrace walls, provide clues to the history of the native Hawaiians who lived on the peninsula and in the valleys before the area became a Hansen's disease settlement.

Natural Resources: Located on the north shore of Moloka'i, KALA is roughly 10,800 acres encompassing a wide variety of habitats from submerged, marine resources (2,000 acres) to lowland coastal, mesic, and rainforest habitats. The park includes dramatic cliffs, intervening valleys, lava tubes, caves, and more. KALA's offshore islands are considered one of the premier undisturbed natural resources of Hawaii due to the presence of seabird colonies, rare plants, and invertebrates. Kauhakō Crater in the center of the peninsula, rises to 402 feet above sea level, and has a crater lake over 800

feet deep. Kauhakō lake contains an endemic sub-species of shrimp (*Palaemon debilis*) and an unusual microbial fauna. Nearly 20 federally-listed threatened and endangered species of plants (e.g., Dwarf naupaka, *Scaevola coriacea*) and animals (e.g., Humpback whale, *Megaptera novaeangliae*) have been identified within the park. The perennial Waikolu Stream contains all five native diadromous fish species, native snails, and shrimp. Significant marine resources include threatened and endangered species and well preserved coral reef communities.

Inventory and Monitoring Highlights:

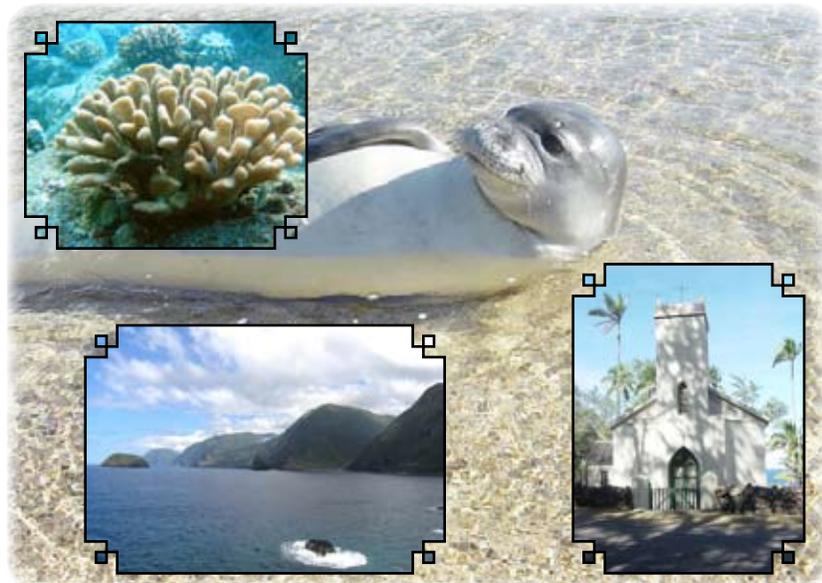
An estimated 90% of the terrestrial plant species within the park have been documented, and in 2005 preliminary marine vegetation surveys were also conducted. Fourteen threatened or endangered plant species were reported in Kalawao County and Okala Island, and others may be found on un-surveyed cliffs. Surveys of the freshwater aquatic fauna in Kauhakō lake and Waikolu Stream have documented endangered species as well. Surveys were also conducted in 2001 and 2003 to identify species of resident and migratory seabirds. The marine vertebrate inventory in 2005 recorded 52% of the known reef and shore fishes in Hawaii. Culturally important intertidal marine invertebrates (e.g., 'Opihi, *Cellana sp.*) have been monitored since 2003. Currently, the I&M benthic monitoring protocol is monitor-

ing corals and other benthic biota (e.g., algae). Furthermore, the park contains one of the most prevalent birthing sites in the main Hawaiian Islands for the endangered Hawaiian monk seal (*Monachus schauinslandi*).

Current Issues in Management: Treatment of encroaching alien vegetation on archeological sites is a major challenge. Natural resource priorities include the removal of feral goats, pigs, and axis deer to protect native vegetation and reduce upland erosion. Alien species (fish, mollusks, and crustaceans) could heavily impact native invertebrates in Kauhakō lake if introduced (as has been documented in Hawaiian anchialine pools). Introduced marine fish and potential invasion of alien algae may threaten native coral reef fauna and flora. Other management issues include water diversion for agriculture and drinking water from Waikolu Stream, overfishing, and seepage of pollutants into the marine ecosystem from the settlement. Measures such as vegetation restoration, fencing, removal of ungulates, exotic plant management, and protecting marine resources are key to preserving KALA's unique and diverse natural resources. — E. Brown and G. Hughes

Come visit us:

Access is restricted to boat, air, or a steep foot trail. Visitation averages 76,000 people per year (only guests of residents may stay overnight). On the Web at: <http://www.nps.gov/kala/>



From left to right:
Coral (*Pocillopora edyouxi*), Mōkapu and Okala Islands, Saint Philomena Catholic Church in Kalawao.

Background:
Young Hawaiian monk seal (*Monachus schauinslandi*).