

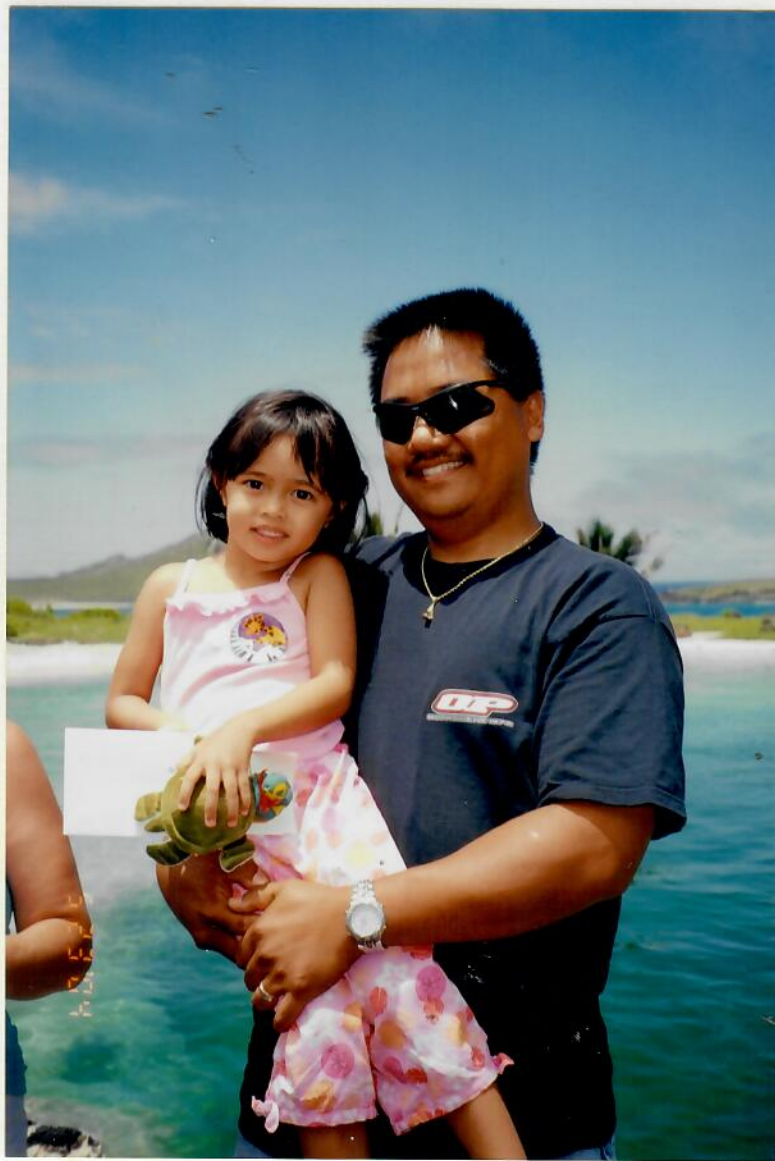
5690 MAY 19-21, 2004 LAHAINA

SEA TURTLE DAY SLP 5-23-04

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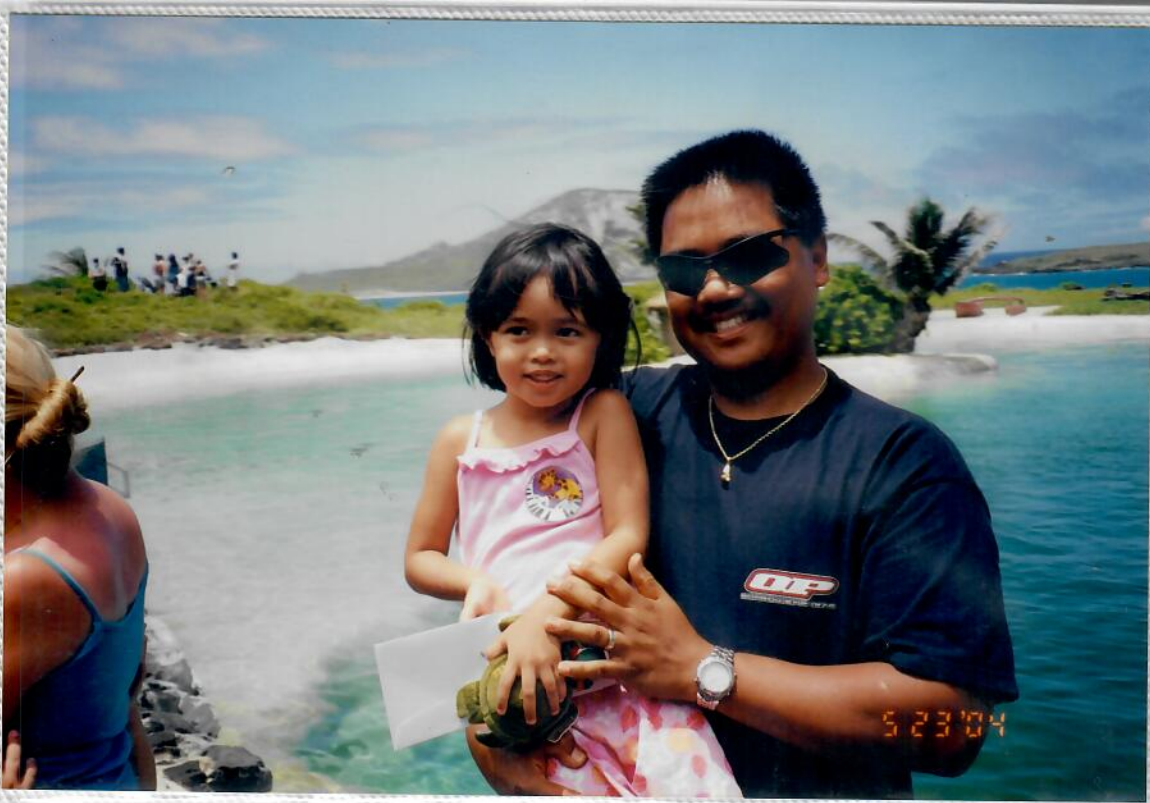


















Ala Hele Mo'olelo O Lāhainā • Lāhainā Historic Trail

Sea of Riches

Looking toward the ocean, you'll notice the reef that is prominent from the waves washing over it. In the days of the ancient chiefs and kingdom, this reef was called Ka Papa Limu A Pi'ilani (meaning "the seaweed reef of Pi'ilani," the great chief) because it was known to contain every variety of seaweed important to the Hawaiians. Just south of here was Makila, a primary fishing ground, where men would stand on the reef and throw out their nets to retrieve a bountiful catch.



As you can imagine, this long reef was prized in ancient times for its rich food source. But it was also a prime recreational spot. The high chiefs of old Hawai'i would take out their *papa he'e nalu* (surfboards) and ride to shore. The longest continuous wave on Maui began at 'Uo (north of here at the edge of the harbor) and continued to Makila Beach. The area you are gazing at was so coveted, in fact, that it remained Crown Land even after the Great Mahele land partitioning of 1848.

## Sacred Land of Royalty

Throughout the centuries, Wainē'e and in particular the subdivision (*'ili*) of Kalua O Kiha in which you are standing have been coveted by Hawaii's royalty. This area holds a rich freshwater source that moves slowly down from Kaua'ula Valley through underground lava tubes. These life-giving waters would occasionally percolate to the surface through cracks in the tubes and create springs (*puna*). From these, high chiefs took their drinking and purification ceremonial waters. An abundance of freshwater was a symbol of wealth and essential to royalty.



Today, evidence of the freshwater can still be seen percolating at the edge of the ocean between the two building complexes at the south end of this park. This area (to the left, right and behind where you are standing) contained a bounty of freshwater ponds. A sluice gate (*mākaha*) was constructed where the water met the sea, allowing ocean fish to enter the ponds from Loko O Nalehu inland.



The largest fishpond was Loko O Mokuhinia. It was part of the sacred grounds of Hawaii's royal complex, known as "Moku'ula." The waters of these ponds (still underground today) were protected by the lizard-like deity that guarded them, a *mo'o*.











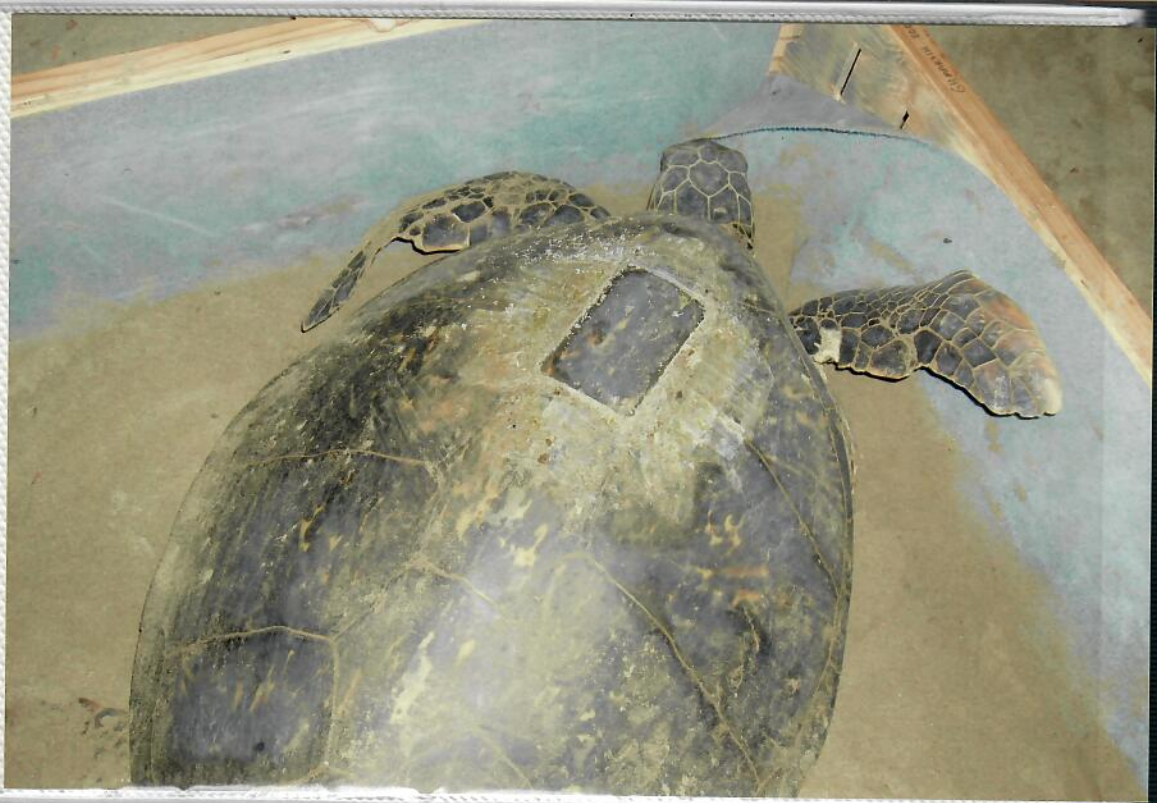




















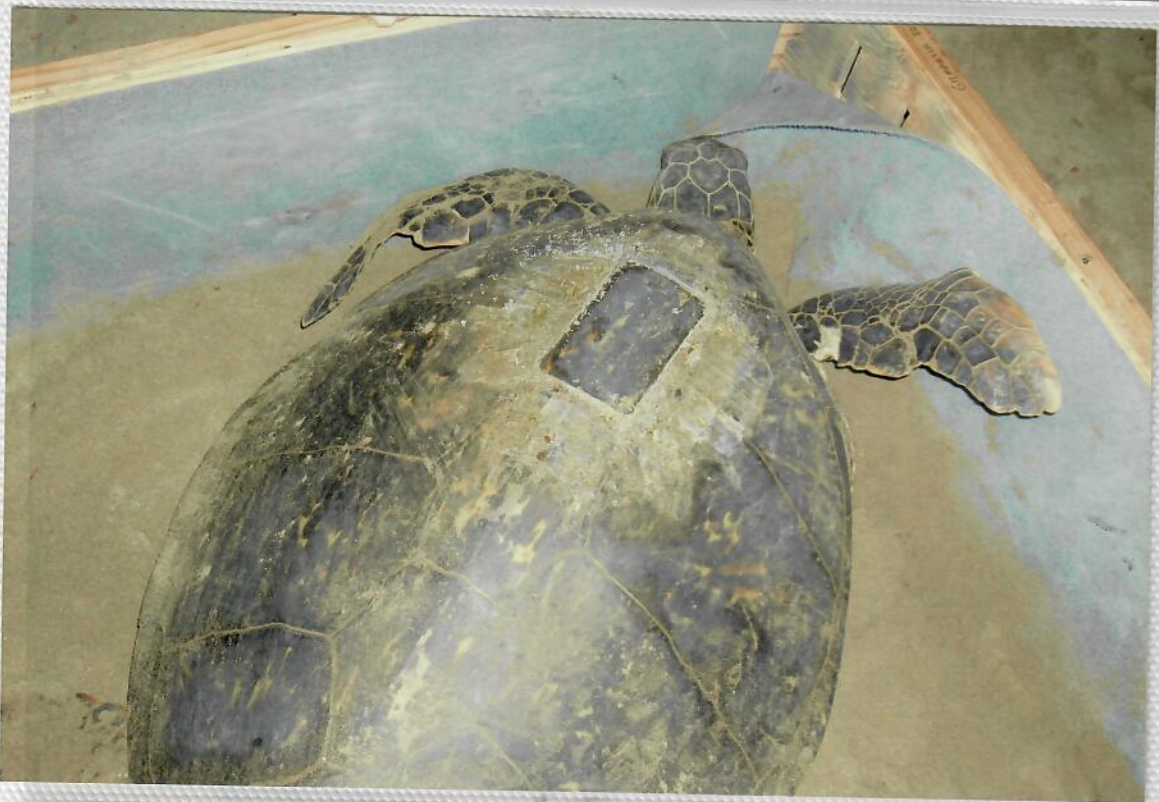


















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1 HOUR PHOTO



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