



TURTLE POND—This is Pahonu, the only known turtle pond on Oahu. "Honu" is the Hawaiian word for turtle. In the background is Manana or Rabbit Island. — Photo by John Titchen.

Waimanalo Pond Recalls Chief's Special Delicacy

If fish can be kept and fattened in ponds until they're ready to eat, why not turtles?

This question was answered in the affirmative by a Hawaiian chief whose name has been lost even to legend but whose love of turtle meat has not been forgotten.

The chief is remembered because Pahonu, the pond he ordered built, can still be seen in the shallow waters off Waimanalo Beach, near Kaiona Beach Park.

The pond is 500 feet long, 50 feet wide; it was constructed of lava rocks to form a semi-circular enclosure off the shore.

THE STORY says that the chief ordered every turtle caught by fishermen to be put in the enclosure. No one but the chief, and presumably his friends, were allowed to eat of the turtle meat, under penalty of death.

This edict was in effect until the chief died.

Stell Newman, State archaeologist, says that Pahonu is the only known turtle pond on Oahu.

Pahonu today presents a peaceful scene, marking one small part of the long Waimanalo Beach that many consider the finest beach in the islands.

Offshore are Manana, also called Rabbit, Island, and Kaohikaipu Island, its small neighbor. To the rear are the sheer cliffs of the Koolau Pali.

PAHONU IS the most visible remnant near Waimanalo, of the Hawaii of 150 years ago but there are some other archaeological remains and place names are sometimes historical reminders.

For instance, there is a street in Waimanalo called Puuone. A pu'uone was an island fish pond connected with the sea.

Levi Chamberlain, a peripatetic missionary, walked around Oahu in 1826 and described scenes and settlements as he found them then.

"On the right, at no great distance, rose the mountain, almost perpendicular, topped with verdure, presenting the mural front like an impassable wall," he wrote, describing the pali back of Pahonu.

He had walked from Waimanalo to Kukui, "a small, poor fishing settlement" just past Pahonu.

A few years before there had been a battle at Kukui; one of the participants was Kalanikupule, the king of Oahu who was later defeated by Kamehameha the Great at Nuuanu Pali.

THE TALLEST mountain back of Pahonu was named Mailo Peak after a strong man who must also have been a bully; he stayed home and did as he pleased, while making others work for him.

Sunday Outing



By Harry Whitten

There were heiaus and fishing shrines in the area and burial caves in the cliffs.

A marker at Kaupo Beach Park, across from Sea Life Park, tells about the ko'a or Hawaiian fishing shrines.

It reads: "Ko'a or Hawaiian fishing shrines were the most important of the small shrines in old Hawaii. The first fish of a catch was placed on the shrine as

DIRECTIONS — *Kaiona Beach Park is on the Waimanalo side of the Shriners' Beach Club, the Makapuu side of Waimanalo Beach Park. Pahonu, the turtle pond, can be seen in the ocean on the Makapuu side of the park.*

RESTROOMS—*Yes, at park.*

PICNIC FACILITIES—*Yes, at park.*

NEAREST PLACE TO EAT—*Country stores in Waimanalo.*

offering to insure continued good fishing . . . Ko'a took the forms of single stones, groups of stones or small ones, and were placed near the water . . ."

The marker for the fishing shrine is on a part of the Kaupo Lava Flow, which the geologist Harold Stearns says was probably the most recent lava flow on Oahu.

Kaupo Beach figured in an accident on Aug. 22, 1906 when the liner Manchuria ran aground on a reef offshore. This accident hastened the building of the lighthouse at Makapuu Point, a picturesque part of the scenery for beach-goers.

Waianae Ridge Hike

Ohikilolo, a ridge in the Waianae Mountains near Makua Valley, will be the hike taken tomorrow by the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club — if it doesn't rain the way it did last Sunday.

The hike is long and arduous for those who go all the way to Ohikilolo Peak; most will quit at various places along the way. Herman Medeiros, the leader, and John Paul went out in last Sunday's rain to mark the trail.

Hikers will meet at 8 tomorrow morning on the mauka side of the Iolani Palace grounds, bringing lunch and plenty of water. They should wear long pants and sturdy shoes.

This afternoon hikers are taking the easy walk through Na Laau Hawaii State monument. Meeting time was to be 1 p.m., at the end of Kapiolani Park, where Paki meets Kalakaua Avenue.