



OAHU DRIVE GUIDE *Invites You to*  
*Explore Paradise*  
**'Imi Loa**

*The following stories were researched and written by Jill Engledow, award-winning author of several Maui books and many articles about Hawaii, and presenter of the "Island Life 101" seminars, which introduce newcomers to the Hawaiian Islands. 'Imi loa is Hawaiian for "seek far," or "distant traveler."*

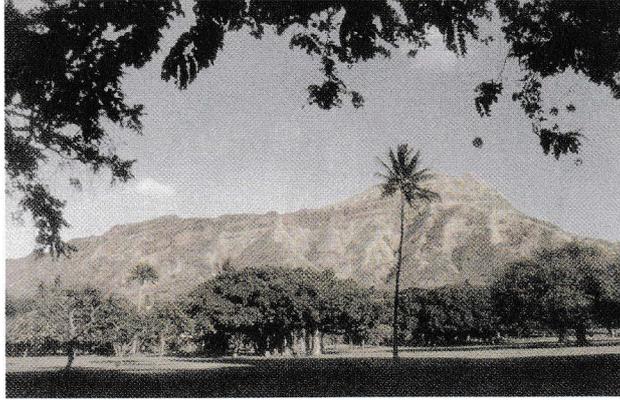
**T**he golden ilima is a fitting flower to represent the island of Oahu, because it is also the flower of Hawaii's royalty. So delicate that it lasts but a day, so fine that 500 are needed to make a single lei, the royal ilima symbolizes the island where the monarchy held sway and where chiefs surfed and relaxed at what has become the world's most famous beach.

When Capt. James Cook first sighted the Islands in 1778, he sailed by Oahu without noticing the narrow channel that led to a deep, sheltered harbor, later named Honolulu. On its shore was a little fishing village called Kou. It sat on the edge of the hot, dusty plain that joins the Koolau and Waianae mountain ranges, formed by the two volcanoes that created this island more than 2 million years ago.

Kou was not a particularly inviting place to settle. The Koolau Mountains blocked the trade winds and rain that would have made it a more desirable site. When a Western ship discovered the harbor at Kou in about 1793, the dusty little village began a new life that would make it a player on the world stage. It acquired the name Honolulu, meaning "protected bay," and soon began to attract ships seeking a resting place on trans-Pacific voyages.

In 1795, the invading Big Island chief Kamehameha defeated Oahu's forces in the battle of Nuuanu. Kamehameha lived for a while near the harbor, where he could keep an eye on the developing commercial activity, but preferred the more peaceful village of Kailua-Kona on the Big Island of Hawaii, and spent his final days there, till his death in 1819.

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Brett Upchurch

Just one year later, missionaries arrived from New England to begin their battle for Hawaiian souls against the forces of ancient tradition and the pleasure-seeking whalers who wintered in Honolulu. The little town had become a wild place where drunken sailors caroused, young Hawaiians raced their horses and livestock ran loose in the streets.

Honolulu gradually evolved into a more settled community and, in the 1840s, it became the capital of the kingdom. Hawaii's royalty adopted the fashions of their European peers, and King Kalakaua built the elegant Iolani Palace. Honolulu was home to the agents who conducted business and politics for sugar planters. With water from deep wells and a series of irrigation ditches and tunnels, the dry central plain of Oahu sprouted vast plantations, first sugar, then pineapple.

Sugar brought prosperity, but also a desire for favorable business conditions that stirred unrest among the property-owning class. A bloodless coup in 1893 toppled the monarchy, and a brief, failed counterrevolution resulted in Queen Liliuokalani's imprisonment in Iolani Palace. The presence of Pearl Harbor, a perfect station for the U.S. Navy, persuaded the United States to agree in 1898 to the rebels' request to annex the island republic and make it a U.S. territory.

The outside world had transformed Oahu in little more than a century. The Ala Wai Canal

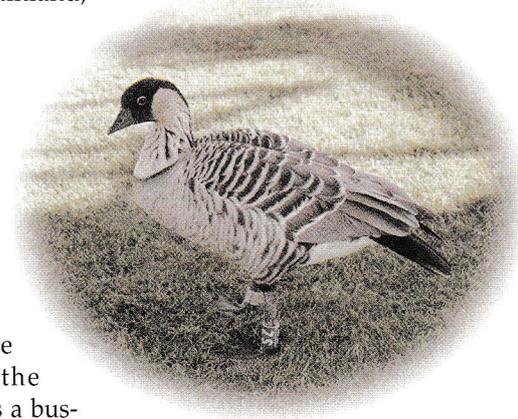
drained the wetlands of Waikiki, long a favorite retreat for Oahu's elite. The Moana and the Royal Hawaiian, gracious hotels, drew well-heeled tourists, who arrived to great fanfare on Boat Days at Honolulu Harbor.

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, thousands of servicemen visited Waikiki, and soon this strip of sand became an international symbol of all that was tropical and romantic. At the time of statehood in 1959, jet travel made the Islands easily accessible from the Mainland, and tourism took off.

Today, Waikiki remains a favorite stop for Hawaii's visitors. Downtown Honolulu, with its glass and steel towers, is the commercial center of the Pacific. Still the capital island of the chain, Oahu includes a bustling city, rustic rural towns and wild, remote areas. This is an island of contrasts, a fascinating place where there is always something to do, something to see.

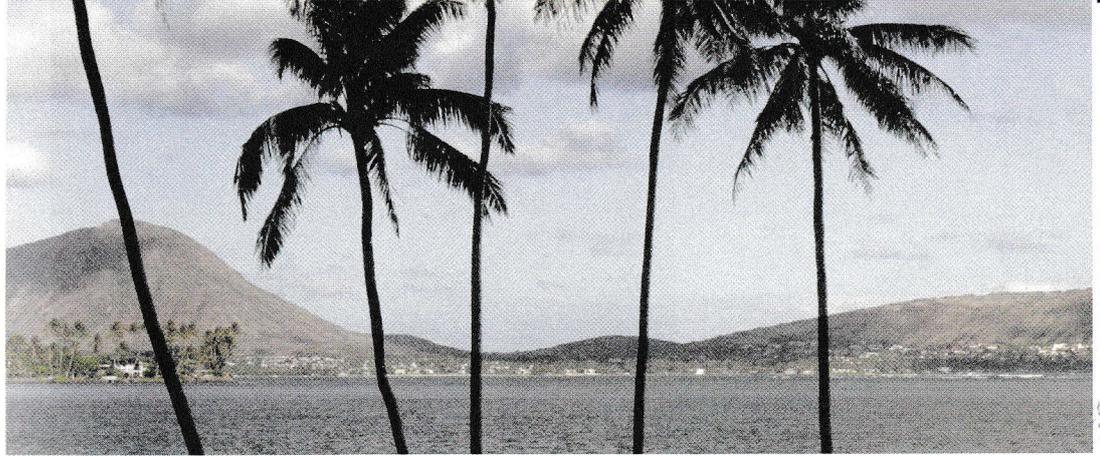
Nearly three-quarters of the state's 1 million population live on Oahu's 608 square miles, a collection of people from many cultures, each

*The nene,  
Hawaii's  
state bird*





Brett Upchurch



adding its own flavor to this cosmopolitan stew. Honolulu, home to half the island's population, is a city of neighborhoods with tree-lined streets and mom-and-pop businesses.

In the Honolulu Capitol District, civic buildings, museums, historic sites and galleries provide a fascinating glimpse of history. Within a few square miles are the beautifully restored Iolani Palace, the little houses and stone church the first missionaries built and Bishop Museum, filled with remnants of the time when warrior chiefs dressed in feather cloaks and chanters sang the history of a people and their gods.

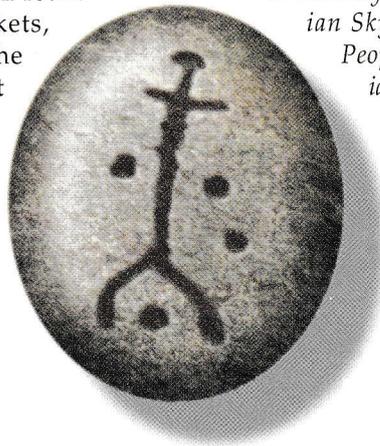
Hawaii's many cultures thrive on Oahu. In September, the Aloha Festivals showcase the Hawaiian culture. In June, the Kamehameha Day Parade commemorates the king who united the Islands, and any day of the year is likely to find dancers performing hula—both ancient and modern—in festivals and competitions around the island. Each summer, Japanese perform bon dances at Buddhist temples to honor their ancestors, and visitors are welcome to observe or even join in the dance. Chinatown, home to immigrants from all over Asia, is a year-round delight, with its open-air markets, herb shops and restaurants. The Asian influence is especially felt during the Chinese New Year, when the streets of Honolulu fill with the smoke and celebratory noise of firecrackers.

Away from city streets, nature still rules, clothing mountains and filling valleys with greenery. Oahu is a beautiful island, with spectacular mountains and breathtaking views. Reminders of its volcanic origins include the tuff cones of Punchbowl, Diamond Head and Koko Head, and the great, ocean-filled crater of Kaneohe Bay.

In addition to Waikiki's world-famous shores, ocean lovers will find beaches and water sports all along the island's 112 miles of coastline. From the serene snorkeling of Hanauma Bay Nature Park to the towering surf of the famous North Shore to the peaceful, three-mile stretch of white sand at Kailua Bay, Oahu's shorelines offer a range of fun ways to get wet.

After a day of enjoying Oahu's sand and sun, visitors don cool aloha wear and stroll the lively streets of Waikiki and Honolulu, near the harbor that once held only a tiny fishing village called Kou.

Recommended reading: *Catch a Wave, Hawaii's New Politics*, by Tom Coffman; *Hawaii: An Uncommon History*, by Edward Joesting; *From Here to Eternity*, by James Jones; *The Hawaiian Sky*, by Will Kyselka; *Hawaii's People*, by Andrew Lind; *Hawaiian Treasures*, by David D. Kiolani Mitchell; *Place Names of Hawaii*, by Mary Kawena Pukui; *Surfing*, by Leonard Lueras.





Dorell Grimsauff

## Jewels of the Islands

The people of Hawaii have always adorned themselves by skillfully crafting items found in their environment—flowers, shells, feathers—into prized accessories. Today's Islanders have the advantage of technology and new traditions in creating jewelry unique to the Islands.

Only in modern times, for example, could a diver equipped with scuba gear have discovered "trees" of black coral growing some 220 feet beneath the ocean surface. It was

1959, and two pioneers of Hawaii's fledgling ocean activities industry, Jack Ackerman and Larry Windley, had recently begun a business taking visitors out for underwater excursions. One day, they happened upon black coral in deep water near Lahaina, Maui. Not recognizing their find, the new company, Maui Divers, showed a sample, carefully chiseled from the sea bottom, to scientists at the Bishop Museum.

The scientists said the divers had discovered the first new source of black coral in centuries, and the first ever seen in Hawaiian waters. The small amounts once found in the Red Sea had long since been depleted making jewelry for



# Long Before A Diamond Was Forever . . .

## Precious Coral

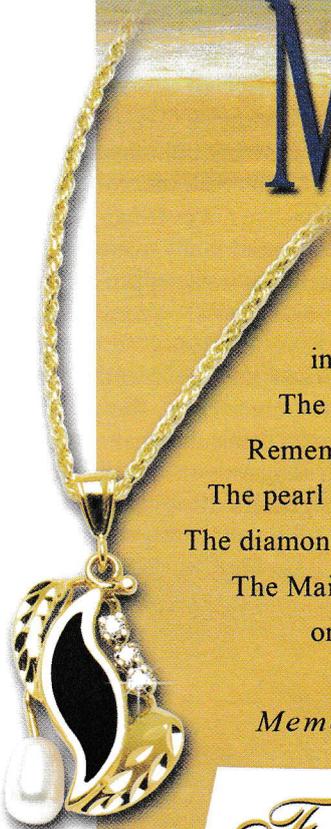


**M** Maui Divers Jewelry, the largest manufacturer of fine jewelry in Hawaii, captures the beauty of precious Hawaiian black coral in the "Paradise Collection."

The coral is in the shape of a wave.  
Remember your walks along the ocean?  
The pearl is the moon over Diamond Head.  
The diamonds are the stars in the island skies.  
The Maile leaf . . .  
once only worn by royalty . . .  
*Paradise . . .*  
*Memories That Last A Lifetime*

**Free Gift** 

*(Bring this ad and receive a free silver dolphin pendant with any fine jewelry purchase at Maui Divers Jewelry)*  
*Refer to Map 2 editorial for store locations*





**Maui Divers Jewelry**  
*Memories That Last A Lifetime*  
800-253-6016 [www.maudivers.com](http://www.maudivers.com)

royalty. And unlike black corals from other parts of the Pacific, this Hawaiian deep-water coral was hard and dense, and could be polished to a high luster.

The discovery of the rare coral turned Maui Divers from a small scuba operation into a jewelry manufacturer working with the world's finest black coral, named in 1987 as Hawaii's official gemstone.

Maui Divers of Hawaii has since moved to Honolulu, and its black coral is now harvested off Maui or in the channel between Kauai and Niihau, always with care that this resource is not destroyed. Conservation rules ensure that slow-growing colonies, formed from the accumulated skeletons of microscopic animals called coral polyps, are not over-harvested. It takes millions of polyps and many years for a single coral colony to mature to a size appropriate for harvesting.

The company later discovered other gold and pink Hawaiian corals. Like the black coral, they are very dense and hard, rare gem corals that make excellent jewelry. Pink coral grows in much deeper water than black. Originally discovered in 1966 in 1,200 feet of water off the island of Oahu,

pink coral was selectively collected by the *Star II*, a submarine with a remote-control cutting device, because no human diver could survive in such deep water. Pink coral has since been discovered in shallower waters over the entire length of the Hawaiian chain, so the submarine, the first ever used to harvest precious coral, is now used to collect gold coral. Discovered about the same time as Hawaiian pink and in the same general area, gold is the rarest of all gem corals. Maui Divers is the only company in the world that makes jewelry from gold coral.

Ironically, another gem of the ocean whose name is associated with Hawaii is no longer found in waters here. Pearl Harbor, world-famous since the onset of World War II, once was well-known for pearls. Ancient Hawaiians collected the oysters that produced these pearls, and ate them raw or cooked. They used the mother-of-pearl shells to make fish hooks, decorate bowls, fashion eyes for their wooden god images and used as scrapers to make rope and cloth. No one knows if the Hawaiians of old valued the oysters' pearls, which they called *momi*. Ancient chants do not mention pearls, and they have never been found in archaeological digs.

Once Westerners discovered the Islands, however, King Kamehameha I learned that the shiny little spheres sometimes found within an oyster's shell had great value to these newcomers. Never one to miss out on a good business opportunity, the king took control of Pearl Harbor and forbade un-



Brett Clifton

Darrell Grindstaff



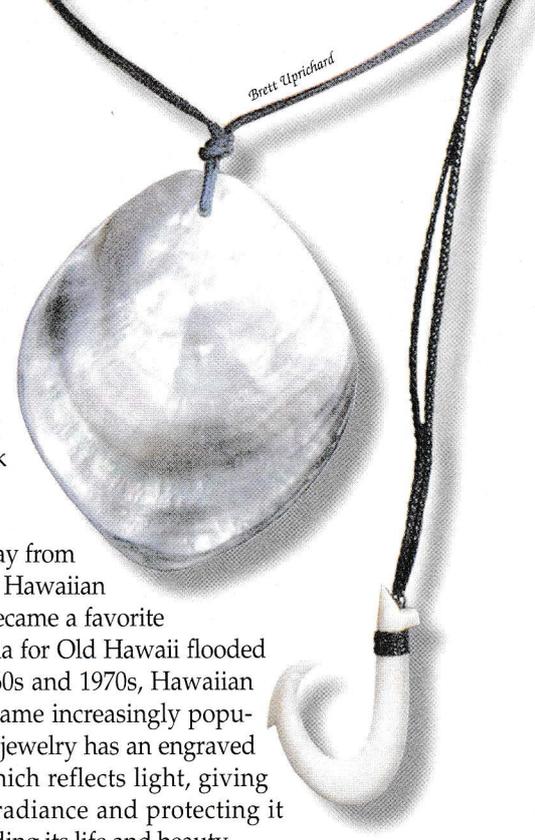
authorized oyster fishing, on pain of death. Unfortunately, by the 1840s, livestock grazing and deforestation had damaged the land surrounding the harbor. Silt filled the streams that fed it, washing into the harbor and killing the oysters. By the turn of the century, the only significant oyster beds in the main islands of the Hawaiian chain had been destroyed.

Today, entrepreneurs are working to establish pearl farms in Hawaii. In the meantime, Hawaii's jewelers import cultured pearls from other areas of the Pacific. First cultured in 1893 by Japan's Kokichi Mikimoto, pearls come in a variety of colors, sizes and shapes.

Many Island jewelers work with one-of-a-kind Tahitian black pearls and South Sea pearls. The Tahitian pearls, farmed in clear, warm waters off of South Pacific islands, may be slightly gray to bluish black, the dramatic and glowing product of the black-lipped oyster. South Sea pearls are cultivated in Australia, Indonesia and the Philippines from white-lipped and gold-lipped oysters.

While the ancient Hawaiians were unable to reach deep-water coral, and apparently ignored native pearls, they had no opportunity to admire gold until after Western contact in 1778, when British explorer Capt. James Cook arrived. By the 1880s, Hawaii's royals had established a courtly life not unlike that of their European counterparts, and they enjoyed a long-distance relationship with the monarchs of Great Britain. In 1887, Queen Kapiolani and Princess Liliuokalani attended Queen Victoria's Jubilee, where they were presented with solid

Brett Uprichard



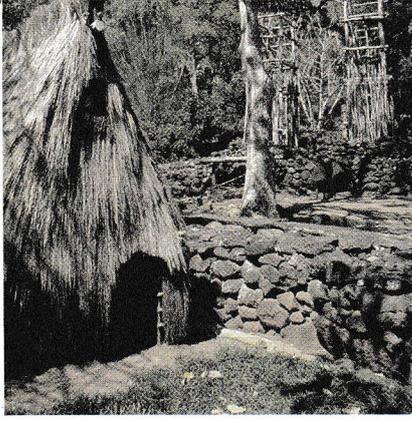
gold bracelets with their names cut in Old English lettering filled with black enamel.

This style made its way from the British Isles to the Hawaiian Isles, where it soon became a favorite of royalty. As nostalgia for Old Hawaii flooded the Islands in the 1960s and 1970s, Hawaiian heirloom jewelry became increasingly popular. Today's heirloom jewelry has an engraved diamond cutting, which reflects light, giving the jewelry greater radiance and protecting it from scratches, extending its life and beauty.

*Kamaaina* (long-time residents) and visitors, as well, often choose this jewelry to mark special occasions in their lives. Hawaiian heirloom jewelry graces the wrists of many a graduate, or symbolizes true love in an engagement ring. Its popularity is not confined to official gift giving, as many jewelry lovers become collectors of this enameled style with a romantic past. Like the gleam of a coral gem or the glow of a unique pearl, the glitter of this golden jewelry adorns its proud owner with a permanent Island treasure, a fitting successor to the hand-crafted accessories of the ancients.

Recommended reading: *Hawaiian Heirloom Jewelry: A Lasting Remembrance*, by Philip Rickard, with Henry Bennett; *Those Kings and Queens of Old Hawaii*, by Paul Bailly; *The Hawaiian Calabash*, by Irving Jenkins; *Royal Journey to London*, by Emily Warinner; *Pearls of Pearl Harbor and the Islands of Hawaii*, by Michael Walther.





Photos by Brett Upheland

## Caretakers of the Land

Ancient Hawaiians lived in harmony with nature out of necessity. From the most basic materials—stone, wood, plants—they made everything they needed to survive, and fashioned many items of marvelous craftsmanship. For the most part, they enjoyed a life of plenty, with a population that may have neared 1 million at its peak, and found the time to engage in games and sports such as surfing.

These Islanders saw themselves as close kin to plants and animals that possessed *mana*, or spiritual power. The Polynesian explorers had happened upon a chain of islands rich in ecological diversity, and they treated this treasure trove of life with care and respect, taking only what they needed from the land and sea.

Still, human beings had an impact, even before the Western world made its imprint on Hawaii's environment. The Polynesian pioneers burned lowland forests to clear land for crops, and they hunted some birds to extinction. In the early 1800s, human impact was much more dramatic, when Westerners brought trade items that encouraged Hawaiians to harvest sandalwood almost to extinction. Outsiders also imported livestock that denuded the forests.

Fortunately, in the second half of the 20th century, awareness of the importance of conservation and the value of Hawaii's thousands of unique species inspired efforts to preserve what remained of Hawaii's natural treasures.

Among the early leaders of this effort were the custodians of the place known today as the Waimea Valley Audubon

Center. With the mission of "conservation through cultivation," the caretakers of this valley have been assembling unique and endangered species from Hawaii and other tropical and subtropical areas since the 1960s.

Thirty-six garden collections feature more than 200 plant families and more than 1,000 genera. This biodiversity is very accessible; in a day strolling Waimea Valley's peaceful paths, one can view a greater range of plants than would be possible in many years of traveling the globe.

In each of the gardens, plants are arranged by family, so the viewer can see, for example, the wide variety of plant families, including pineapple. The spring equinox is a particularly colorful time of the year, with many flowers in bloom.

The four gardens that feature Hawaiian plants include three that focus on native, or endemic, plants. Botanical gardens such as those in Waimea Valley are key to preserving these species.

Over many centuries, Hawaii's natural life evolved into a dazzling array of unique species, more than 90 percent of which are found nowhere else on the planet. More than 10,000 native species of plants, insects, fish and birds once flourished in Hawaii's rich natural systems. This wealth of diversity is now threatened by extinction. More than one-third of Hawaii's endemic birds and plants are on the U.S. Endangered Species List, the highest percentage of any state.

Waimea Valley's staff works with others to stem this loss. For example, when the U.S. Army Conservation Corps



discovered recently that a very rare tree on land under Army control had produced a crop of seedlings, it brought 14 of the saplings to be nurtured in the valley. The fourth garden of Hawaiian plants, focusing on those introduced by the Polynesians, includes varieties of sweet potatoes, sugar cane, taro, hala, breadfruit and bamboo. In addition to its collection of plant life, the valley is home to a number of archaeological sites. Visitors can see a *kauhale*, or living site, built on the foundations of an original village. Plants used by the Hawaiian people are scattered through the village, each labeled to explain how it was used.

Other sites include a *hale iwi*, or burial temple, and a *Hale o Lono*, or House of Lono, a temple honoring one of Hawaii's four great gods.

Lono was the patron at the annual harvest festival, or *makahiki*, and visitors who arrive in October may be lucky enough to visit during the center's *makahiki* ceremony. It's appropriate that this god of agriculture and fertility should be the one whose temple survives today in the valley where modern caretakers are dedicated to preserving the fruits of the land and the botanical treasures of the Hawaiian people.

Recommended reading: *Native Plants in Old Hawaii*, by Elizabeth Green Handy, Edward Smith Handy and Mary Kawena Pukui; *By Wind, By Wave*, by David Eyre; *Plants and Flowers of Hawaii*, by S.H. Sohmer and R. Gustafson; *Hawaii's Birds*, by the Hawaii Audubon Society. (All books, with the exception of *By Wind, By Wave*, are available at the Hawaii Audubon Society's Nature Store.)

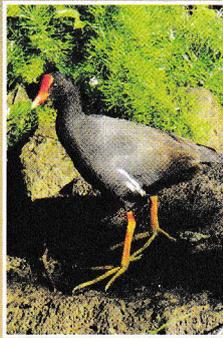


*'Imi Loa — Explore Paradise 11*

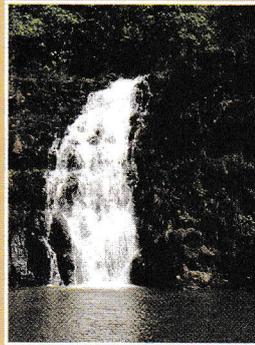


## Waimea Valley — Portal to the Past

**L**ush Waimea Valley provides a unique opportunity for residents and visitors to immerse themselves in Hawaiian natural and cultural history. This 1800-acre valley on Oahu's North Shore was home to the High Priest of Oahu for over 600 years. A temple, several shrines, agricultural terraces and village walls still dot the valley.



Visitors today can enjoy the historical and archeological sites, along with a vast array of flowering plants, invertebrates, birds and streamlife. Each day the valley offers new wonders to explore, new mysteries to ponder.



Take a three-quarter-mile walk to Waihi Falls, and enjoy a cool swim in the pool below (weather permitting). Dip your toes in Kamananui Stream, home to four of the five species of native freshwater fish. Meander through miles of trails and footpaths to

explore the world-class botanical gardens, including one of the finest Hawaiian ethnobotanical collections anywhere. Spend a moment at the ponds visiting with the endangered, endemic moorhen. Enjoy nature. Contemplate beauty. Visit us at Waimea.

Located at 59-864 Kamehameha Hwy., Haleiwa, the center is open daily from 9:30 am – 5:00 pm

(except Christmas and New Years Day). Food, beverages and unique-themed merchandise are available. Admission Rates: \$8 adult/\$5 child 4-years through 12-years of age. For more information call 638-9199.



**WAIMEA  
VALLEY  
Audubon  
CENTER  
638-9199**

## Apparel That Says Aloha

When the royal ladies of the Hawaiian Islands saw the dresses worn by the missionary women who arrived in 1820, they simply had to have some.

The female chiefs immediately put the missionary ladies to work stitching up dresses with fabric acquired from sandalwood traders. The seamstresses converted their own high-waisted pattern to a loose gown for the Hawaiians' generous figures, creating a new design that would be known as a *holoku*.

It was the beginning of the tradition of clothing designed for Hawaii, a handstitched precursor to a long-running fashion trend and multimillion-dollar industry now called "aloha wear."

Before Western contact, Hawaiians wore simple garments of *kapa*, a fabric made from mulberry bark. Their *kapa* was some of the best in the Pacific, pounded to a fine, soft texture and decorated by painting and block printing. Once the missionaries landed, they encouraged the Hawaiians to dress in the Western style.

### Birth of the Muumuu

The first design, the *holoku*, consisted of yards of fabric attached to a yoke, with a high

neck and long sleeves.

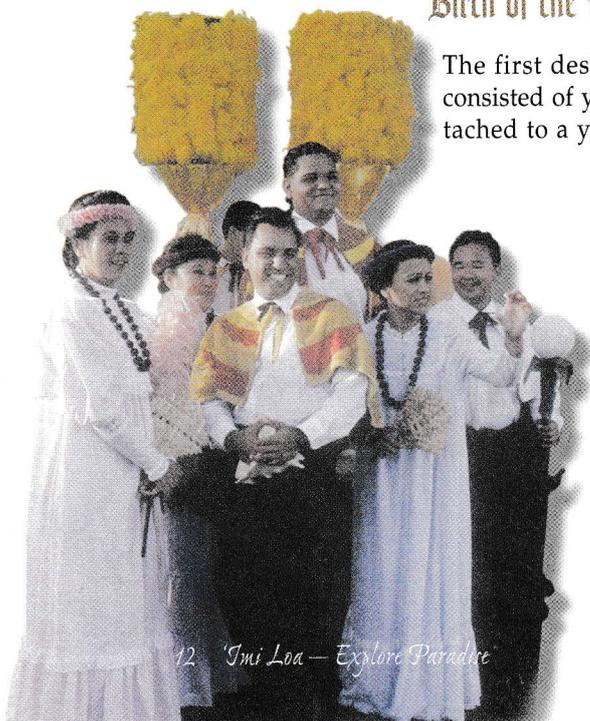
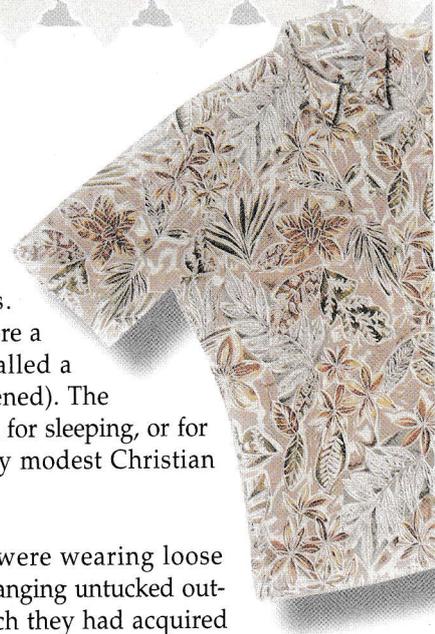
Underneath, women wore a shorter, simpler slip, called a *muumuu* (cut off, shortened). The *muumuu* was also worn for sleeping, or for swimming in this newly modest Christian kingdom.

The men, meanwhile, were wearing loose shirts, or "frocks," left hanging untucked outside their trousers, which they had acquired through trading with sailors. Some of the shirts were made of a heavy cotton cloth with a blue and white plaid pattern that came to be associated with plantation life, and took its name—*pala-ka*—from the Hawaiian pronunciation of frock.

### The Aloha Shirt

It was not until the 1930s that shirts began to be made of more colorful stuff—Japanese kimono prints or simple Asian two-color designs. A shirtmaker named Ellery Chun trademarked the term "aloha shirt" in 1936, and had artists design fabrics, while others sewed shirts of the "bark cloth" tropical prints originally made for draperies and upholstery.

Some shirtmakers tried using rayon, but the quality of that fabric was poor until the 1940s. Postwar Hawaii still swarmed with servicemen when the new, high-quality rayon be-



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Photos by Brett Upchurch





Ron Laas

*Grace and  
beauty in motion,  
a symbolic reenactment of  
events both great and small*