

HISTORY OF LA'IE BEACHES

1 CASTLE BEACH

Starting in Malaekahana Bay is Castle Beach, named after the Castle family that used to own the Kahuku Plantation. Various members of the family built beach homes along here in the early 1900s. However, according to John Clark's Beaches of O'ahu and Sites of O'ahu by Elspeth Sterling and Catherine Summers, this area now called Castle Beach was known as Hali'i.

2 GOAT ISLAND POINT

The point across from Goat Island was called Kalanai Point, and there was a fishing shrine called Koa. After the Cooke family built a large beach house there, it was sometimes called Cooke's Point. The Cooke estate was torn down when the park was created in the late '70s.

3 GOAT ISLAND

Goat Island is really Moku'auia Island. A hundred years ago or so goats were left out there where they ruined the native ecosystem. Now the island is a sanctuary for ground nesting birds. That's why you see the signs to stay on the beach and not disturb the birds.

4 HUKILAU BEACH

Hukilau Beach in Laie Bay got its name from the hukilau fundraiser held by the Laie Ward in 1948 to help build their chapel. Before this, the beach was called Hamana's Beach after Hamana Kalili, one of the fishing masters in Laie who had his boat house there. Hamana is also recognized as the originator of the "shaka" sign after he lost his three middle fingers of his right hand in an accident. Before Hamana's day it was simply called Laie Beach.

5 JENAGATORS REEF

At the south end of Hukilau is a reef called Jenagators, named after the Hollywood starlet Janet Gaynor who bought a beach lot fronting the reef after winning two Academy Awards in 1927. The local pidgin-speaking kids who learned to surf there corrupted her name. South of this location is a large circular hole in the reef called Luapuhi, meaning "eel hole."

6 TEMPLE BEACH

At the foot of Hale La'a Boulevard is what is now called Temple Beach. John Clark gives the name of Kaunala in that area and also says the area was called Pu'uahi because fisherman using the narrow channel next to the Point would know where to come in at night when fires were built on the beach berm next to the Point. Others think the fires were built on the hill where the temple is.

7 LAIE POINT

Laie Point was originally called Laniloa Point. Legend has it that two large mo'o (dragons) guarded the Point, but two demigods, brothers named Kana and Niheu, slew them and chopped up the carcasses, which became the islets (Kukuiho'olua, Mokuilai, and Pulemoku) off the end of the Point. Before the tsunami of 1946, there was only a cave on Kukuiho'olua, but the tidal wave punched through the cave to make the arch.

8 LANILOA OR CLISSOLDS BEACH

The beach south of the Point should be called Laniloa Beach. Locally, it has been called Clissold's Beach for decades because one of the first beach estates along here was built by Edward LaVaun Clissold in about 1951. Clissold had been a missionary to Hawaii and was fluent in the language; he was also the stake president, temple president, mission president, and manager of Zion's Securities, the predecessor of Hawaii Reserves.

9 ONINI BEACH

The shallow reef just south of Laniloa Point is called 'Onini and is the place where a small plane crashed while filming a tsunami in March of 1957. This beach is mostly rocky, but there is a small sand patch north of the right-of-way, across from the chapel, called Puehuehue.

10 BATHTUB BEACH

Across from the south end of the Polynesian Cultural Center is an area called Bathtub Beach because of a little lagoon protected by an uplifted slab of reef. It was earlier called Scott's Beach after the owner of an estate on the bluff above.

11 POUNDERS BEACH

Pounders Beach is the area between the bluff called Kehuku'una Point south to the rocky outcrop called Pali Kilo I'a. At the north end is Laie Landing, where remains of the pilings of the pier built in 1887 can still be seen. Before getting the name Pounders, the beach was called Pahumoa after a skilled fisherman named Pahumoa Kamakeeaina. Before his day, it was called La'ielohelohe after the sister of La'ielkawai.

12 KAKELA BEACH

Beyond Pali Kilo I'a is the stretch of beach commonly called Kakela. The original Hawaiian name is Kokololio. The first part of the beach around the point from Pounders is called Mahakea Beach, and the section fronting the park is called Kakela after the Castle family who bought the area from Zion's Securities in the late 1920s and built a magnificent beach estate complete with statues and other embellishments.