

MULIWAI TRAIL

State of Hawaii
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

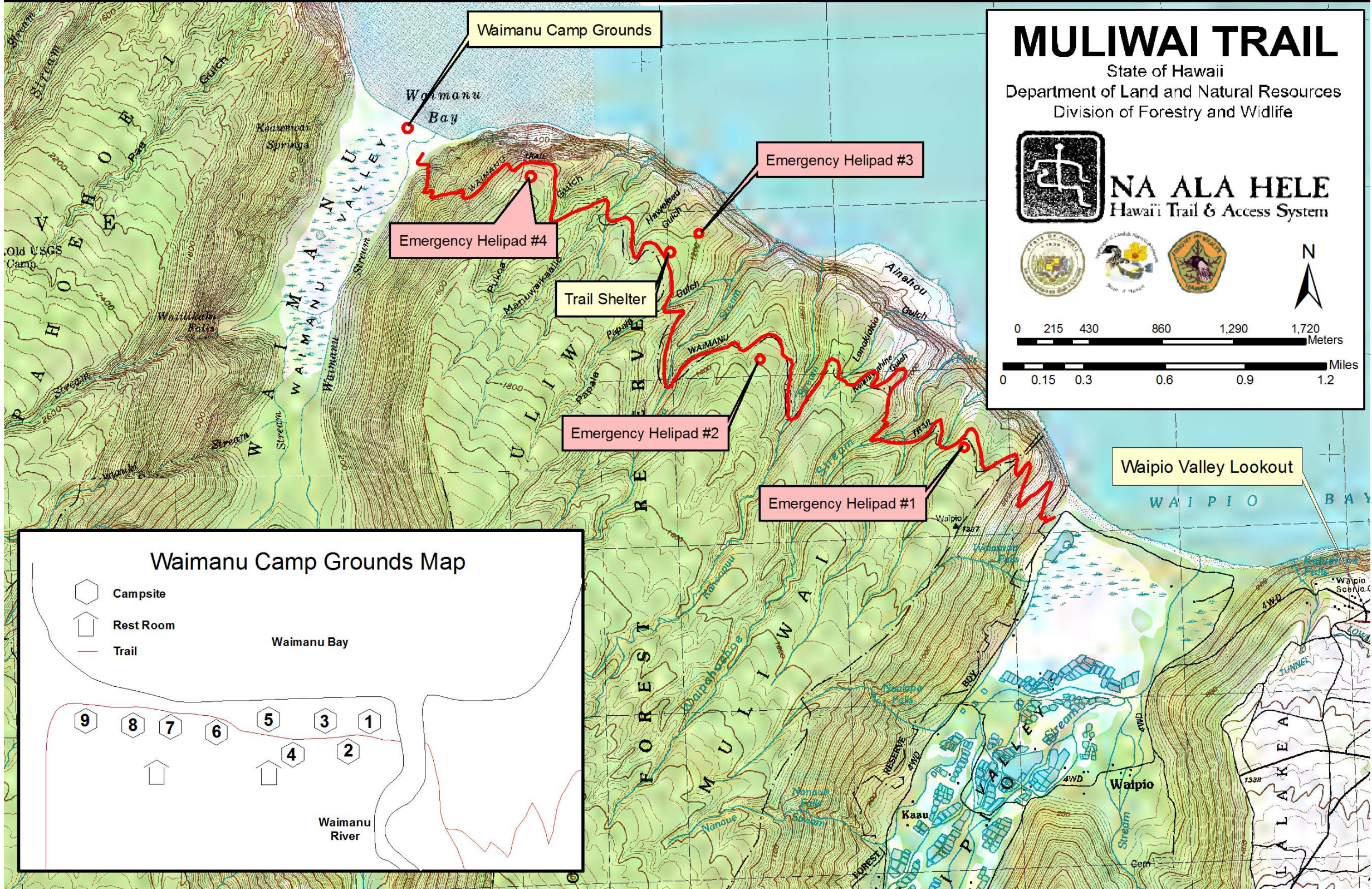


NA ALA HELE
Hawaii Trail & Access System



0 215 430 860 1,290 1,720 Meters

0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 Miles



Waimanu Camp Grounds Map

- Campsite
- Rest Room
- Trail

Waimanu Bay

9 8 7 6 5 3 1



4 2

Waimanu River

TRAILHEAD. The Muliwai Trail starts at the bottom of the west wall of Waipio Valley. **VEHICLE ACCESS INTO WAIPIO VALLEY IS BY 4-WHEEL DRIVE ONLY.** Proceed to the beach, ford Wailoa stream, and proceed across the valley along the beach. The trailhead is just inland from the beach on the far side.

BE ADVISED: PARKING AT WAIPIO LOOKOUT COUNTY PARK IS LIMITED TO 24 HOURS. Call 775-0958 for parking at Waipio Valley Artworks.

TRAIL CONDITIONS. The Muliwai Trail begins by making a challenging ascent of 1,200 feet in less than a mile on switch-backs cut into the wall of Waipio Valley. It then passes through 12 smaller gulches on a five mile course of only moderate difficulty before dropping into Waimanu Valley on another challenging switch-back cut. Measured from the trailhead the Muliwai is 15.3 miles round trip. If you start your hike from the Waipio Lookout the round trip is approximately 19 miles.

HAZARDS: WEATHER. This region of the Big Island receives over 100 inches of rain annually. Heavy rains regularly cause flash floods which can make attempted stream crossings **POTENTIALLY FATAL.** Use extreme caution when hiking in wet weather; footing can be slippery and rocks may be dislodged from slopes above the trail. High winds often cause tree and branch fall on the trail and in the campsites. High surf occasionally floods the camp grounds. Check local weather forecasts before departing on your trip.

HAZARDS: BIOLOGICAL. Leptospirosis, a disease causing, waterborne organism, should be considered to be present in all untreated water. Hepatitis is also a potential threat. **TREAT ALL WATER BEFORE USE.** Even spring water is not safe to drink without treatment.

HAZARDS: INVERTEBRATE. Be alert for centipedes which are common in the rocks and leaf litter in the campsite area. Centipedes will seek shelter in your tent and bedding when rising water floods their hiding places. Their bite, though not normally dangerous, is extremely painful.

HAZARDS: TRAIL. It is only minimally maintained, steep, deeply eroded in places, rocky, muddy, and slippery when wet. Only experienced hikers in good physical condition should attempt it. Water is available in streams along the trail.

HUNTING. The entire area along the Muliwai and in Waimanu is in a Unit B Game Management area open seven days a week, year round for game mammal hunting.

NATURAL HISTORY. This area of the Big Island is characterized and dominated by the series of valleys running from Waipio north and west to Pololu. Large valleys include Waipio, Waimanu, Honopue, Honokane Nui and Iki, and Pololu. Each was formed by a combination of volcanic faulting and subsequent stream erosion. They were cut during a period when sea level was about 1,000 feet lower than today. The flat valley floors formed after sea levels rose.

Forests along the trail are predominantly non-native. Most of the ridge top areas were planted with introduced tree species during the 1930's. Along the upper Waimanu rim, the trail passes through a section of native 'ohi'a-kopiko-lama (Metrosideros-Psychotria-Diospyros) forest. The understory supports a few hapu'u (tree ferns, Cibotium) and oha wai (Clermontia).

CULTURAL HISTORY. Both Waipio and Waimanu valleys supported large populations of Hawaiians in the past. They were important sites for the cultivation of taro (kalo, Colocasia). Poi, made from the root of this plant, was the starch staple of the Hawaiian diet. In times of severe drought, these valleys were often the only places where this crop would flourish. Evidence of ancient Hawaiian occupation is abundant in Waimanu Valley.

NATURAL RESOURCES. All plants, non-game animals, rocks and other natural and archaeological or cultural features are protected by law against removal, injury, or destruction.

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Photographed by: John Replogle

DAY USE OF THE MULIWAI TRAIL DOES NOT REQUIRE A PERMIT.

ALL OVERNIGHT USERS MUST REGISTER and purchase a permit. Permits for one of nine available campsites may be obtained by visiting the Department of Land and Natural Resources camping permits website (camping.ehawaii.gov), or in person at your nearest Division of Forestry and Wildlife office. Permits are sold no earlier than the one month in advance. Use of the Trail Shelter (Half-way House) along the Muliwai Trail is on a first-come, first served basis, with a valid Waimanu camping permit.

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY: DUE TO HAZARDS THAT ARE PRESENT, ALL TRAILS WITHIN WAIMANU VALLEY LEADING TO THE WATERFALL OR ANY OTHER DESTINATION IS CLOSED AT THIS TIME, AND WILL REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL DEEMED SAFE BY DLNR.

FACILITIES. There are nine designated campsites accommodating from 2 to 10 campers in Waimanu Valley. There are two composting outhouses. The Trail Shelter on the Muliwai Trail consists of a floored shed with 1/2 walls and a pit toilet. There is no water available at the Trail Shelter. There are four emergency helipads along the trail. These helipads are used by Forestry fire fighters, trail maintenance crews, and Fire Department Rescue teams. **DO NOT OBSTRUCT OR CAMP ON THEM.**

MINIMUM IMPACT CAMPING. All users are required to pack out everything they pack in. Do not bury or burn your rubbish. **PACK IT OUT.**

MODES OF ACCESS. Hiking and kayaking are all legal modes of access to Waimanu Valley.

