

## WAIKIKI HISTORIC TRAIL MARKERS

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### MARKER 1 (Location: Kapi'olani/ Waikiki Beach)

This section of Waikiki Beach contains four distinct areas: Outrigger Canoe Club, Sans Souci, Kapi'olani Park and Queen's Surf. The Outrigger Canoe Club Beach fronts the Club, which was founded in 1908 to revive surfing and canoe paddling, and promote other sports and activities. Sans Souci (from the French "without care") takes its name from a small hotel that once stood on the grounds now occupied by the Kaimana Beach Hotel. In 1893 the famed Scottish writer Robert Louis Stevenson spent five weeks convalescing at Sans Souci. He praised the hotel for its "lovely scenery, quiet, pure air, clear sea water, good food, and heavenly sunsets..."

Next to Sans Souci is the War Memorial Natatorium, a monument to the 179 island men who lost their lives in World War I. This unique athletic facility, with its 100 meter salt-water pool (still the largest in the U.S.), opened in 1927. It has been partially restored, although the pool is no longer used.

Kapi'olani Park Beach is part of the 100-acre Kapi'olani Regional Park which was dedicated in 1877 by King Kalakaua in honor of his Queen Kapi'olani. The park's main feature was a horse-race track in early years. The U.S. Army used the open ground there as an encampment after the annexation of Hawaii in 1898.

The Queen's Surf was one of the most popular restaurant-nightclubs in Honolulu during the 1950s and 1960s for both visitors and residents. It was named for the famous surf break off shore. The structure was demolished in 1971 to make room for park improvements.

In ancient times, there were at least two temples or heiau located near the shoreline in this area. One was Kupalaha, at Queen's Surf Beach. It may have functioned in connection with the famed Papa'ena'ena heiau where it is believed the last human sacrifice was made by Kamehameha I in Waikiki. The other was Makahuna near the foot of Diamond Head, which was dedicated to Kanaloa, the god of the Seas, and was attended to by fishermen and seamen.

MARKER 2 – (Location: Kapahulu groin)

From ancient times Waikiki has been a popular surfing spot. Indeed, this is one of the reasons why the chiefs of old make their homes and headquarters in Waikiki for hundreds of years.

Though surfing has been called “the sport of kings,” in ancient days everyone surfed – young and old, men and women, commoners and chiefs. Freed from working in the fields, the chiefs were the best surfers. Certain areas were reserved for them and woe to the commoner who got caught riding a royal wave!

Not far from here, on the slopes of Diamond Head, was a heiau or temple that was dedicated to he’e nalu or surfing. Temple priests would announce surf conditions to the villagers below by flying a kite. Surfs had their special names and the most famous in Waikiki was Kalehuawehe or “take off the lehua.” It was so named when a legendary hero took off his lei of lehua blossoms and gave it to the wife of a ruling chief, with whom he was surfing. Romance and surfing often went together.

It’s hard to imagine, but by 1900 surfing had nearly died out in Waikiki. It was revived by a small group of Honolulu residents who went on to found the Outrigger Canoe Club, the world’s first organization dedicated to “preserving surfing on boards and in Hawaiian outrigger canoes.” Today, of course, surfing has become an international sport.

Waikiki’s surfs bear names such as:

Steamer Lane	Castles
Publics	Cunahs
Queens	Canoes
First Break	Populars

Waikiki has the best summer waves in the world. The swells vary in height from 2 to 8 feet and the very, very rare 30 feet (in Steamer Lane). The rides can easily extend a hundred yards or so. The longest ride recorded took place in 1917 when the great Duke Kahanamoku caught a wave 35-feet high and rode it to shore, a distance of a mile and a quarter.

You are standing on what was the mouth of an old stream, the Kuekaunahi, one of three that flowed from the mountains and valleys of the Ko’olau Range down through the marshes of Waikiki to the sea. Waikiki was indeed a marsh; hence, its name “spouting water.”

MARKER 3 (Location: Ala Wai/Lili'uokalani Site)

Geologically, Waikiki was once a vast marshland whose boundaries encompassed more than 2,000 acres (as compared to its present 500 acres). It served as a drainage basin for the water that fell on the Ko'olau Mountain Range, where on average nearly 5 million gallons of rain falls everyday. The early Hawaiian settlers, who arrived around 600 A.D, gradually transformed the marsh into hundreds of taro fields, fish ponds and gardens. Imagine, Waikiki was once one of the most productive agricultural areas in old Hawai'i. As the native population dwindled, however, agriculture in Waikiki followed suit. The once productive fields and ponds became breeding grounds for the introduced mosquito. Eventually, in 1927, the completion of the Ala Wai Canal drained the area and reclaimed the land for the development of today's hotels, stores and streets.

You are standing on the estate of Queen Lili'uokalani, the last reigning monarch of the Kingdom of Hawai'i who was overthrown in 1893. "The Queen's Retreat," which was in the district of Hamohamo, consisted of two homes, one located here, called Paoakalani ( the royal perfume), which was her principal home in Waikiki. The other was Kealohilani, located opposite Kuhio Beach, which she referred to in her memoirs as "my pretty seaside cottage." Known for her hospitality, the queen entertained family, friends, and visiting royalty, including the Duke of Edinburgh in 1869.

The story goes that the Duke asked the Queen if he could see real native entertainment. She obliged him with a program of ancient hula, chants, and games that had rarely been seen. A few days later, the local newspaper, representing the missionary view, described the program as a "disgraceful" display of "heathenism" and hoped that it would be the last of such performances in the Kingdom.

The Queen wrote several of her many songs in Waikiki. One of her last was "Ka Wai 'Apo Lani" (Heavenly Showers), which was composed at Kealohilani. In it she expressed the hope that she would be returned to the throne. She exhorted her people to remain resolute:

Should our hearts' love be restored,  
And our rights be ours once again,  
Then will our loved shoals of Kane,  
Be the firm foundation of the land.

MARKER 4 (Location: Kuhio Beach)

This stretch of beach (from the Kapahulu groin to the Beach Center) is Kuhio Beach Park. It is named for Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole, Hawaii's second Delegate to the United States Congress. He served as Delegate from 1902 to 1922. He is best known for the passage of the Homes Commission Act, which provided Native Hawaiians 200,000 acres of land for homesteading.

He was a Royalist and in 1895 joined an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow the Republic of Hawai'i and restore Queen Lili'uokalani to the throne. He was charged with treason and served one year in prison.

He lived in a stately home, called Pualeilani or "Flower From the Wreath of Heaven" (Located across the street) and upon his death, the property, which included the beach, was given to the City. He is popularly remembered as Prince Cupid or as Ke Ali'i Maka'ainana (the Chief of the Commoners).

The low retaining wall offshore is called "Slippery Wall" because it is covered with fine seaweed that creates a very slick surface when wet. Young people often enjoy sliding on it. But it can be dangerous. It's best to avoid it.

Actually the wall was built to keep the sand from eroding away, but it's been a losing battle. Every few years sand is brought in to rebuild the world's most famous beach.

MARKER 5 (Location: Kuhio Beach)

(Duke Kahanamoku. Use current text on base of statue. No surf board marker.)

Text reads:

Duke Paoa Kahanamoku)  
August 24, 1890 – January 22, 1968

Raised in Waikiki, Duke was a full-blooded Hawaiian, who symbolized Hawaii to millions of people. He developed into an Olympic champion and the world's fastest swimmer. Between 1912 and 1932 he won three gold medals, two silver and a bronze in four Olympics. He is known as the "Father of International Surfing."

Duke introduced surfing to the Eastern Seaboard of America, Europe and Australia. He became a hero when he saved eight lives from a capsized launch at Corona Del Mar, California in 1925 using his surfboard. A movie actor from 1925-1933, he was elected sheriff of Honolulu for thirteen consecutive terms from 1934-1960. He has been recognized as Hawaii's Ambassador of Aloha since 1962.

"He has honored his name, he has honored his race, he has honored his state, he has honored us all."

MARKER 6 (Location: Kuhio Beach)

(The Healing Stones of Kapaemahu. No surfboard marker. Use current plaque, which reads:

“Wizard Stones of Kapaemahu

Hawaiian legend says these stones were placed here in tribute to four soothsayers, Kapaemahu, Kahaloa, Kapuni and Kinohi, who came from Tahiti to Hawaii long before the reign of Oahu’s King Kakuhihewa in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The four were famed for their healing powers, before vanishing. The wizards transferred their powers to these stones.

Department of Parks & Recreation  
City & County of Honolulu 1963”)

The Mystery of How the Stones Got Here

Legend says that these stones were brought into Waikiki from Waiialae Avenue in Kaimuki, nearly two miles away. Waikiki was a marshland devoid of any large stones. These stones are basaltic, the same type of stone found in Kaimuki.

Thousands of people were directed to move these stones, which weighed as much as eight tons, during the night. How did they accomplish this with no wheeled vehicles or animals to help them?

This wahi pana (or legendary site) was restored with the Assistance of Papa Henry Auwae, a traditional Hawaiian healer, and the Queen Emma Foundation  
1997

MARKER 7 (Location: King's Alley Entrance)

King David Kalakaua (1836-1891) had a residence here, in Uluniu, as this area was called in the 1800s. It was a two-story, frame structure, situated in a grove of towering, very old coconut trees. The house was big enough for hosting large parties, which he was fond of giving. A man of eclectic and cosmopolitan interests and tastes, he enjoyed the hula – in fact, he revived the hula tradition – but he also enjoyed the waltz. A guest at one of his parties wrote, the house was “decorated gaily and with an excellent floor for dancing... After we had a feasted and dances... [we] witnessed the native dance called ‘The Hoolah’...” Everyone recognized the king’s enormous talent for entertaining, as well as his equally enormous capacity for alcohol. He was known as the “Merry Monarch.”

King Kalakaua took a trip around the world and visited Japan where he tried – unsuccessfully – to betroth the Princess Ka’iulani to a Japanese prince. He visited Europe where he was well received. His visit to Washington, D.C. contributed to the passage of Reciprocity Treaty. He accomplished much for his nation.

He left his estate to Queen Kapi’olani, who in turn bequeathed her properties to the support of the Kapi’olani Medical Center for Women and Children.

MARKER 8 (Location: 'Aina Hau Park/Triangle)

Nani wale ku'u home 'Ainahau I ka 'iu

So beautiful is my home 'Ainahau in a paradise.

These are the words from a popular song honoring 'Ainahau ("land of the hau tree"), once described as "the most beautiful estate in the Hawaiian Islands." Its ten acres were filled with gardens, three lily ponds, 500 coconut trees, 14 varieties of hibiscus, 8 kinds of mango trees, plus a giant banyan tree. The estate belonged to Governor Archibald Scott Cleghorn, and Chiefess Miriam Kapili Likelike, a composer like her sister Lili'uokalani and brother Kalakaua. Their only child was the Princess Victoria Ka'iulani, who grew up at 'Ainahau with her beloved peacocks. The Scottish writer Robert Louis Stevenson was a frequent guest and used to read passages of poetry to the young Princess under the banyan tree. He even composed a poem for her in which he described her as his "island rose, Light of heart and bright of face." Strikingly beautiful and talented, Princess Ka'iulani had been educated in England and was being groomed to succeed Queen Lili'uokalani. It is said that the night she died, her peacocks screamed so loud that people could hear them miles away and know that she had died. She was only 23 when she died at 'Ainahau in 1899.

'Ainahau Park (where you are standing) is located on part of the long palm-boarded driveway that led to the Cleghorns' spacious two-story Victorian home which was situated on what is now Cleghorn and Tusitala Streets.



MARKER 9 (Location: International Marketplace, Under Banyan Tree)

King William Kana'ina Lunalilo (1835-1874), the first elected king in Hawaiian history, had a summer residence here in the area known as Kaluaokau. Here he enjoyed "the quiet life of Waikiki and living simply on fish and poi with his native friends." Hawaiians called him ke ali'i lokomaika'i or "the kind chief."

. His brief reign of a year and 25 days was marked by poor health aggravated by heavy drinking. When his Household Troops of 60 soldiers mutinied against their officers in Honolulu, he negotiated a peaceful settlement with a carefully worded message while convalescing at his home here in Waikiki.

At his death in 1874, his lands totaled nearly 400,000 acres, but nearly all of it is gone today. He did, however provide for the establishment of the Lunalilo Home for the "poor, destitute and infirm people of Hawaiian blood or extraction, giving preference to old people."

The King left his house and property here to the Dowager Queen Emma, whom he was very fond of. Emma had been the wife of King Kamehameha IV, who died in 1863. The modest wooden structure here on the banks of the Apuakehau stream served as a retreat for the popular Emma.

Greatly influenced by her adopted father, who was an English physician, she co-founded the Queen's Hospital, known today as the Queen's Medical Center, the largest hospital in the Islands. She and her husband helped to establish the Episcopal Church in Hawai'i. She also sponsored the founding of St. Andrews Priory School for Girls.

MARKER 10 (Location: Courtyard, next to Banyan Tree, Moana Hotel Restaurant)

The first hotels in Waikiki were bathhouses, such as the Long Branch Baths, which began to offer rooms for overnight stays in the 1880s. This facility featured a toboggan slide 40 feet high, which propelled riders a hundred feet over the water, like skipping stones.

The first beachside hotel, the Park Beach, was a converted home which offered 10 rooms, each equipped with a bath and telephone. The Moana Hotel, the “First Lady of Waikiki,” which opened on March 11, 1901, established Waikiki as a resort destination. The four-story, 75 room structure was the tallest building in Hawaii. It sits on the area known in ancient times as Ulukou, or “kou tree grove.” Kou is a wood highly prized for bowls and other eating implements.

Fifteen years after its opening the Moana added 100 new rooms in two wings that created this courtyard facing the sea. Under the banyan tree, Johnny Noble and his Orchestra delighted dancers and listeners. In 1935, Harry Owens and Webley Edwards inaugurated the famed radio program “Hawai’i Calls.” It was beamed to Hawaiian music audiences for 40 years. At its peak in 1952, the weekly program was broadcast on 750 stations worldwide.

MARKER 11 (Location: Next to Patio, Duke's Restaurant)

The Paradise of the Pacific magazine said in January 1895, "A pretty little river runs through the village of Waikiki. It ripples gently along between the level banks through taro patches, rice and banana fields on its way to the ocean. Canoes glide along the shining surface. There are groups of native women and children catching shrimps in long narrow baskets, often stopping to eat a few."

The 'Apuakehau (literally "basket of dew") stream emptied into the sea right here under your feet. The Apuakehau flowed through the middle of Waikiki until the completion of the Ala Wai Canal in 1928. The mouth of this stream carved out a channel in the sea bottom creating the surfing area known in ancient times as Kalehuawehe.

Today this is a favorite spot for some of Waikiki's famed beach boys. This elite group got their start sometime in the 1930s when the first Waikiki Beach Patrol was organized. Known by such colorful nicknames as Chick, Steamboat, Turkey, Dogpatch, Toots and Colgate, these beach boys are a different breed from their counterparts elsewhere. They have been called "Waikiki's ambassadors," serving the needs of royalty, Hollywood celebrities, and the general public alike.

Today, they are professionals licensed by the State of Hawai'i to teach surfing or canoe riding and must be regularly qualified in life-saving tests. Like their forerunners, many are great storytellers, entertainers, and conversationalists. James Michener said of the beach boys: "Without these remarkable people the island would be nothing. With them, it is a carnival. They are generous, courageous, and comic... They are perpetual adolescents of the ocean, the playboys of the Pacific..."

MARKER 12 (Location: Back Lawn, Royal Hawaiian Hotel)

You are standing where once spread the royal coconut grove known as Helumoa. At one time it consisted of nearly 10,000 trees. According to legend, the first tree was planted in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by the great chief Kakuhihewa.

Kamehameha the Great camped here with his generals as they began their conquest of O'ahu in the summer of 1795. They returned victorious from the battles in Nu'uuanu Valley and made Waikiki the first capital of the Kingdom of Hawai'i. This area including all of Helumoa and 'Apuakehau was known as Pua'ali'li'i. Kamehameha built a Western style stone house here. This residence was often occupied by his favorite wife Ka'ahumanu and her retainers.

Kamehameha ended Waikiki's nearly 400-year reign as O'ahu's capital when he moved his residence and headquarters to Honolulu because of its harbor and access to foreign trade and goods. .

Later, the modest residence of Kamehameha V Lot Kapuaiwa, the grandson of King Kamehameha I, was built here. These lands were inherited by his half-sister, Princess Ruth, and later willed to Princess Bernice Pauahi, the last of the Kamehamehas. Her estate still owns this land today, and funds the Kamehameha Schools, which educates thousands of native Hawaiian children across the State.

The Royal Hawaiian Hotel or "The Pink Palace" was completed in 1927 at a cost of \$5 million. With 400 lavishly decorated rooms and Spanish-Moorish style architecture, it was touted as the "finest resort hostelry in America."

MARKER 13 (Location: Beach, Next to Outrigger Reef Hotel)

From olden times Waikiki was viewed not only as a place of peace and hospitality, but of healing. There was great mana (spiritual power) in Waikiki. Powerful kahuna la'au lapa'au or physicians lived here. Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century Hawai'i's royalty also came here to convalesce.

One of Waikiki's places of healing was this stretch of beach fronting the Halekulani Hotel called Kawehewehe (or the removal). The sick and the injured came to bathe in the kai, or waters of the sea. They might have worn a seaweed lei of limu kala and left it in the water as a symbol of the asking of forgiveness for past sins, which was believed to be the cause of many illnesses. Hawaiians still use the sea to heal their sores and other ailments, but few come to Kawehewehe.

In 1912, a home here was converted to a boardinghouse known as "Grays-by- the -Sea." Its grounds were later incorporated into the Halekulani. The beach is still known today as Gray's Beach. The natural sand-filled channel that runs through the reef makes it one of the best swimming areas along this stretch of ocean.. .

MARKER 14 (Location: Next to U.S. Army Museum)

On this site stood the villa of Chun Afong, Hawai'i's first Chinese millionaire, who arrived in Honolulu in 1849. By 1855, he had made his fortune in retailing, real estate, sugar and rice, and for a long time held the government monopoly opium license.

Chun Afong was a member of King Kalakaua's privy council, and married Julia Fayerweather, a descendent of Hawaiian royalty, with whom he had 16 children, 13 of whom were daughters. He was the inspiration for Jack London's famous story, "Chun Ah Chun."

His Waikiki villa occupied three acres of landscaped grounds. Here he gave grand parties for royalty, diplomats, military officers and other dignitaries.

In 1904 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers purchased the property for \$28,000 to make way for the construction of Battery Randolph and the no-longer-extant Battery Dudley to defend Honolulu Harbor from foreign attack. The battery consisted of two 14-inch guns, which could fire a 1,560 pound projectile over a range of 14 miles. It was constructed with reinforced concrete walls and a roof up to 12 feet thick. In 1969, the Army attempted to demolish Battery Randolph, but it resisted all efforts of the wrecking ball. The use of dynamite was rejected as too dangerous.

One of the last important military fortifications of its time, it was dedicated on December 7, 1976 as the home of the U.S. Army Museum of Hawai'i.

MARKER 15 (Location: Kalia Road)

Had you walked across this road in 1897 you might have landed in Waikiki's largest fish pond, the Ka'ihikapu, which measured 13 acres. All of today's Fort DeRussy on the mauka (toward the mountain) side of the road was covered with fishponds. There were actually hundreds of fishponds in Waikiki.

The fishponds were controlled by the chiefs, but maintained by the commoners. The fish grown in the ponds were mostly 'ama'ama or mullet and awa or milkfish, both of which adapted well to brackish water. When the ponds were well cared for, the fish fattened quickly. The ponds functioned as "royal iceboxes" with readily available food for guests, especially the unexpected.

Ancient Hawaiians believed their fish ponds were inhabited by mo'o deities who were sometimes described as creatures with terrifying black bodies, 12 to 30 feet in length. Hawaiians believed they were the guardian spirits of fish ponds, who not only protected the caretakers but punished those who abused their responsibilities.

The reclamation of Waikiki began here in Kalia when the U.S. military acquired 72 acres of land and started draining it in 1908 to build Fort DeRussy. It took over 250,000 cubic yards of sand and coral dredged from various O'ahu areas continuously over the course of a year to cover Ka'ihikapua and its sister ponds in Kalia.

The Hale Koa Hotel is used exclusively for U.S. military personnel and their dependents.

MARKER 16 (Location: Paoa Park)

Olympic swimming champion Duke Kahanamoku (1890-1968) spent much of his youth here in Kalia with his mother's family the Paoas. The family owned much of the 20 acres which the Hilton Hawaiian Village now occupies.

It is said that it was here in Kalia that a husband waited patiently for the return of his wife who had been wooed away by a rival chief in Maui; hence, the name Kalia or "waited for." Duke's grandfather Ho'olae Paoa, a descendent of royal chiefs, was deeded the land by King Kamehameha III in the great Mahele of 1848. (The Great Mahele was a dividing of the lands among the king, the chiefs, and the commoners. It also allowed foreigners to own land in the Kingdom for the first time.)

The Paoas were a large 'ohana (family). More than 100 were living in the area at the time. The home in which Duke lived was located about where the former Hilton Dome stood for so many years. The families had their gardens and grew enough taro and sweet potatoes to meet their needs.

Being excellent fishermen, they never were short of the bounties of the seaweed, squid, shrimp, crab, lobster and varieties of fish.. Duke learned to swim in these waters the old-fashioned way: by being thrown into the water to sink or swim!

He learned so well that in 1911 he broke the world's record for the 50-yard and 100-yard sprints in the first AAU swim meet held in Hawai'i. In 1912 he was named to the U.S. Olympic team and won the gold medal in the 100-meter freestyle. This area is also where he learned to become a champion surfrider and Hawaiian outrigger canoe paddler. Some say you can still feel the "mana" (energy or spirit) of Duke and the Paoas here on their former lands.



Marker 17 (Location: Patio of Ilikai Hotel)

The Pi'inaio was Waikiki 's third stream which entered the sea here where the Ilikai Hotel stands. Unlike the Kuekaunahi and 'Apuakehau streams, the mouth of the Pi'inaio was a large muddy delta intersected by several small tributary channels.

The sea teemed with fish, eels, shrimp, lobster, octopus, crab and limu (seaweed). The fishermen of Kalia caught so much fish that they became known as "human fishnets." As recently as the 1930s, residents of Kalia described the area as "one of the most productive seafood producing bays ever known." In season, they would see thousands of white crabs on the beach and catch them by the bucket full. Alas, today Waikiki has been almost totally fished out.

MARKER 18 (Location: Diamond Head Corner of Entrance to Ala Moana Park)

In the late 1800s, Chinese farmers converted many of Waikiki's taro and fishponds into duck ponds. This area, including the Ala Moana Shopping Center, was covered with duck farms.

Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Ala Moana Beach was a barren swampland with an old dirt road that saw little traffic. Smoke rose constantly from a smoldering refuse dump near the water's edge. In 1912, Walter Dillingham purchased the land adjacent to this uninviting waterfront, much to the amusement of his peers.

Most of the acreage was three feet underwater, but Dillingham was no fool. He was in the dredging business, and the swamp was the perfect place to dump all the earth he was removing elsewhere.

In 1931, the City and County of Honolulu decided to clean up the waterfront. A boulevard between this new park and the adjacent property was also built. The new Moana Park was dedicated by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1934. In 1947, its name was officially changed to Ala Moana. The swimming area was once a boat channel leading from the Ala Wai Canal to Kewalo Basin. In 1955, the 'Ewa (west) end was closed off and a mile of sand brought in from the Waiana'e coast. Later, the construction of Magic Island closed off the other end of the channel.

As for the land across the street, Lowell Dillingham came up with an idea in 1949: A shopping center unequalled in the world. Planning, financing and construction took ten years, but the new Ala Moana Shopping Center, a two-story structure on fifty acres, was ready for opening the same year Hawaii became the 50<sup>th</sup> State.

MARKER 19 (Location: Ala Wai Canal Side of Hawai'i Convention Center)

Ala Wai (freshwater way) Canal was at the heart of Waikiki Reclamation Project launched in the early 1900s to “reclaim a most unsanitary and unsightly portion of the city.” The smelly duck farms and the millions of mosquitoes that stagnant ponds bred were the culprits. Residents complained, the Territorial Government responded, and work began in 1922. With the canal’s completion in 1928, the taro and rice fields, the fish and duck ponds, vanished. The reclaimed acres turned into house lots which eventually turned into apartments, stores, restaurants, hotels – and one of the world’s greatest destination areas.

Begun in 1996, the Hawai'i Convention Center is the largest public building of its kind in Hawai'i. It is situated on 11 acres of land, contains more than one million square feet of floor space, three acres of gardens, and a 36,000 square feet ballroom! Funded by the State of Hawai'i, this world-class facility truly captures Waikiki's “Hawaiian sense of place” in its design, materials, gardens, and artforms.

MARKER 20 (Location: Near Corner of Ala Moana and Kalakaua Avenue)

This green expanse in the middle of Waikiki is Fort DeRussy, named in honor of Brigadier General Rene E. DeRussy, Corps of Engineers, who served with distinction in the American-British War of 1812. It was started in 1908 as a vital American bastion of defense, but today it serves as a place of recreation and relaxation for U.S. military personnel and their families.

If you turn toward the mountains, all the land you see before you extending to the foothills of Manoa Valley was planted in taro for many centuries. But, as the number of Hawaiian farmers in Waikiki died off and the demand for poi decreased, by the 1870s taro production practically ceased. Successful rice planting experiments led to a kind of “rice fever” which swept over the islands. Chinese rice planters took over abandoned taro patches and turned Waikiki into a vast rice plantation. For a few years, rice, not sugar, was king in Hawai’i.

The disappearance of taro from Waikiki not only marked an economic change, but a cultural change as well: Hawaiian mythology says the first man was born of Haloa, the sacred taro plant. The planting and eating of taro was for ancient Hawaiians the basis of their existence and their spiritual sustenance as well. When taro disappeared from Waikiki, as it did from so many areas, so did the spirit of Haloa.

MARKER 21 (Location: Intersection of Kuhio and Kalakaua Avenue)  
(Kalakaua Statue. No marker.)

MARKER 21:

End of the Trail: At Kalakaua Park, intersection of Kalakaua and Kuhio Avenues

