

Welcome to Hale Nanealoa

Hale (pronounced ha-lay) is the Hawaiian word for house or building. Nanea means enjoyable, fascinating, to have fun, to relax, to be at leisure; it's how children experience summertime. Loa means very much or to great extent. We felt this name expressed the experience we wanted our guests to have. We hope your stay at Hale Nanealoa will be very memorable; that you'll have fun, and that you will be engaged, fascinated and relaxed while you are here.

Please tell us about your stay by signing our guest comments book while here.

Mahalo. (Thank you)

Bob and Judy Blomberg

Hale Nanealoa

About Us

We've been coming to Hawaii for more than three decades, and we have family roots in this state. It has been the place of most of our family vacations over the years. We've been to all the Islands, but we love the Big Island best for its diversity of climate and landscape, as well as its multitude of interesting things to see and do.

We've always stayed in rented homes and condos, and through those experiences came to know what made the experience special for us - or what could have made it better. We now have the privilege of playing host to others, and we want to help make your experience special.

Please let us know how your stay at Hale Nanealoa could have been made more enjoyable. We hope your stay will make you want to return.

Hale Nanealoa

Important phone numbers and contact information

On-site Na Hale O Keauhou Manager

Charlie Camacho 808.324.4626

Charlie's Cell Phone 808.315.1828

Charlie's office is located next to the fitness center.

Owner contact

Bob and Judy Blomberg, Berkeley, CA 510.527.1765

Bob's Cell Phone 510.735.6165

Email contact bobblom@pacbell.net

Other Important Numbers

Emergency (fire, Police, Ambulance) 911

Kona Community Hospital 808.322.4413

Poison Control Center 1.800.222.1222

Police - non-emergency 808.935.3311

Check out time is 11:00 am unless the owners authorize late departure, in advance. Thank you for your cooperation.

Hale Nanealoa

Check-out Instructions

The Townhouse

Close and lock all windows and doors. Turn off all lights and the air conditioner if AC was part of your rental agreement.

Laundry

Before you leave, please wash, dry and fold all towels and linens that you have used during your stay, including beach towels and kitchen towels, except for the linens on the bed and towels used on your last night/day.

Dishes

Run the dishwasher one final time with any remaining dirty dishes.

Garbage

Across from the H Building is an enclosure where the garbage container (dumpster) is located. Garbage is collected on **Thursdays**. All household refuse should be placed in tied plastic bags and put in the dumpster.

On your day of departure, place garbage from all waste baskets into a plastic bag, including garbage from under the sink, and deposit it in the dumpster. Please do not store garbage in the garage during your stay. See information about recycling opportunities in the "Other Instructions" section of this guestbook.

Keys

Leave both sets of keys on the island in the kitchen. Use the key in the lockbox to lock the front door.

There will be a \$50 reduction of your security deposit for each missing key and/or if the above checkout instructions are not followed.

Hale Nanealoa

Amenities

Swimming Pool Hours and Rules

The pool hours are as follows:

- 6:00 am to 8:00 am for lap swimming
- 8:00 am to 9:00 am closed for cleaning and maintenance
- 9:00 am to 9:00 pm for open swimming

The pool gate is locked during pool hours so bring your key.

Pool rules include the following:

- No glass or breakable containers allowed in the pool area.
- There is no lifeguard on duty so do not enter the pool unless you are a competent swimmer.
- Children under the age of 9 are not allowed in the pool area unless accompanied by an adult responsible for them.

- No horseplay, excessive noise, running or boisterous conduct is permitted in the pool area.
- No toys, flotation devices, or diving gear are allowed in the pool, although water wings are allowed for infants.
- No occupants under the age of 12 are allowed to have guests in the pool area unless such guests are under the supervision of an adult.
- The use of the pool by children not yet potty trained or incontinent persons is only permitted if appropriate swim diapers are worn.
- Spitting, spouting of water, and other gross behavior is prohibited in the pool area.

fitness Center Hours and Rules

- fitness center hours are from 5:30 am to 9:00 pm daily.
- There is a 30-minute limit on the use of any exercise equipment if others are waiting to use the machine.
- No radios without earphones may be played in the fitness center.

- While all people occupying Hale Nanealoa on vacation may use the fitness center, you may only have one additional guest use the fitness center.

Note: for safety reasons, no one under 16 is allowed to use the fitness center.

Hale Nanealoa

Community Rules and Other Instructions

Na Hale O Keauhou is a residential and vacation townhome community. For many, it is a full or part-time residence. The Board of Directors has instituted the following community rules to ensure a pleasant atmosphere for everyone. Above all, please use common sense and courtesy in all your actions while here. And enjoy your stay!

◆ Quiet hours are from 10 pm and 8 am. Sound really travels within the complex so please refrain from making significant noise, dumping trash and/or entertaining outside during these hours, so people can sleep with their windows open. No excessive noise at all other times. No house parties or wedding receptions are permitted. No exceptions.

❖ Do not hang or dry personal items on the lanais or front entry. A drying rack is provided in the garage.

❖ A new Hawaii State law prohibits smoking in all common areas, including those in the out-of-doors. This townhouse is also a non-smoking unit. Thus, our guests are not permitted to smoke anywhere on the Na Hale O Keauhou premises. Other units may not have no-smoking rules; their occupants may smoke within their townhouse or on their lanais.

❖ A new community rule prohibits the feeding of feral cats, cute though they may be. Owners are fined if caught feed the cats. Any fines incurred will be deducted from your security deposit.

Parking

❖ Park your car in a parking stall across from the J Building. Parking stalls are unassigned and may be used on a first-come, first-served basis. The town house garage is reserved for owner storage.

❖ Cars are not to be in the courtyards except for quickly loading and unloading; in no circumstance are they to be left unattended.

❖ Vehicle speed limit is 10 mph. Please obey all signs.

Other Instructions

Garbage Collection and Recycling

Across from the H Building is an enclosure where the garbage container (dumpster) is located. Garbage is collected on **Thursdays**. All household refuse should be placed in tied plastic bags and put in the dumpster. Do not store garbage in the garage.

For recycling purposes, all cardboard boxes, regardless of size (including beer and soda carriers/containers), should be emptied of any packing material, paper, Styrofoam, plastic, etc., flattened and placed inside the enclosures beside the dumpsters.

To raise money, one of the local schools collects those recyclables for which the state pays a rebate (aluminum cans, clear plastic water bottles (without tops) and beer bottles, ONLY). The label will state if Hawaii pays a rebate. The school has placed the smaller, 30-gallon garbage cans in the enclosures to collect these items. Please put ONLY this type of recyclable (rinsed with water) in those containers. Do not put the recyclables in any kind of bag or other container before putting them

in the garbage can. Mahalo for helping out the kids with this fund raising!

By the way, please be sure to close the covers on the trash dumpsters and recycling garbage cans and close the gate to the enclosure when you leave.

Hale Nanealoa

About Some Tricky Appliances, Inanimate Objects and Other Useful Information

Kitchen Sink faucet

Rotating the handle controls temperature of the water on the kitchen sink faucet; the “hot” position is toward the wall (we remember it by “warm wall”). Pulling the handle away from the pipe turns the faucet on. The faucet head pulls out of the pipe and can be used as a sprayer. There are two rubber-covered buttons on the faucet head that switch the stream from spray to regular flow.

The small faucet on the right provides filtered water. We tap this faucet when filling up the Brita pitcher and the result is excellent tasting drinking water; be sure to use it to make better tasting coffee or tea.

Ceramic Stove Top

The person who invented the ceramic stovetop probably never has to clean up the kitchen! The stovetop turns out to be fragile to scratching and needs special care. *The manufacturer's care instructions are included on the next page.* To make the cleanup easier, we have provided surface cleaning towels in a dispenser under the sink, as well as the cleaning cream recommended for ceramic stove tops. We would appreciate it if you try to follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning. Mahalo!

Under Cupboard Lights

The lights under the kitchen cupboards have high and low intensity ("mood lighting, anyone?") and can be switched from one level to the other using the switches on the fixtures.

Sound system

The stereo in the living room (radio/CD/iPod player) has many features, which means the average user needs instructions to make them work. You will find detailed Cambridge Soundworks instructions on how to work these devices in a drawer of the

entry cabinet. A small basket on the end table near the radio has small plastic adapters that fit over the iPod plug to accommodate various model MP3 players. If you look carefully at the adapters, you'll see which iPod/MP3 players they are for.

DVD Player

The Samsung DVD player in the living room will show your digital photos right off of your photo storage card. The small door at the lower left of the player is the spot to insert your photo card.

Air-conditioning

If you've signed up to have AC available during your stay and you feel the need for AC, please close all the windows. Also, please turn the system off while you are away for any length of time. Hawaii's energy costs are some of the highest in the country; please help us conserve energy and protect natural resources.

The thermostat for the central air conditioner is at the top of the stairs. Press the round button until the display reads

“cool” and then set the temperature with the arrow buttons. The system will turn on shortly. In our stays so far, we have rarely felt the need for AC and prefer to open the windows, turn on the ceiling fans and let the trade winds blow through the house - it's part of the joy of being in Hawaii!

Telephones

Our phones offer our guests unlimited free calling to the mainland, Canada, and Puerto Rico. The phones do not accept collect calls.

Telephone books are found in the pull out cabinet below the phone in the kitchen - on the inside drawer that pulls out.

Note: if the phones are not working for some reason, press the circuit breaker button on the plug in the kitchen where the phone is plugged in. On at least one occasion, this has been needed.

Wifi connection

Hale Nanealoha is equipped with high-speed wireless Internet connectivity. Occasionally the traffic on the Hawaii cable

system seems too great and the connection is lost. Be patient; it will return automatically or at least that has been our experience to date. If you continue to have problems, you may have to re-boot the modem and router that are on top of the cabinet in the second bedroom. Unplug both units, wait 10 seconds, and plug them back in.

On a recent stay, Oceanic Time Warner, the ISP, was down across most of the islands; service was restored after about 4 hours. When that happened, we lost cable TV and phone service, too.

Entry screen door

There is a retractable screen door at the entry. It is almost transparent when in use. It is held in position by magnets. Using it increases airflow in the living room nicely, and keeps the geckos and insects out. Please be careful not to walk into it when it is in use!!

Hale Nanealoa

Some Restaurant Suggestions

We have enjoyed several restaurants in particular in the Keauhou area as well as around the Big Island. If you find a restaurant that you'd like to recommend to future guests as well as to us, please tell us about it in the guest book. Appreciating that everyone enjoys different foods and experiences here are some of the ones we like.

(Caveat: some restaurants may have changed ownership or chefs - or gone out of business - thus invalidating our recommendations below!)

Simple food/lunch/snacks

Peaberry and Galette in the Keauhou Shopping Center serves interesting crepes, salads, and light fare as well as specialty coffee drinks. Good for lunch.

Kona Natural Foods in the shopping center near Safeway on Henry Street has a delicatessen that uses

organic foods in preparation of its offerings. The store also sells local, eco-friendly products and organic produce.

Kona Brewing Company in downtown Kailua offers pizzas, salads, and other brewpub fare that is consistently fresh and tasty. Some of the beers are outstanding.

* **Aloha Theatre Café**, located south on Highway 11 in the town of Kainalu, has great breakfasts that include some Hawaiian specialties. And they make sourdough pancakes that are worth getting out of bed for. They also serve lunch and dinner, but breakfast is the only meal we've tried. You can't miss the café if you look for the Aloha Theatre on the right hand side of the road.

* **Annie's Gourmet Kitchen** (aka Annie's Burgers and Beer) is a great new café if you are in the mood for a gourmet burger - organic ingredients and local grass-fed beef. But their selections go beyond burgers (and include vegetarian selections) and beyond beer (full bar). If you like onion rings, theirs are great! And the setting

is unlike any fast-food restaurant you've ever visited with its tropical garden view and breezy open dining room. Annie's is located south on Highway 11 (the one you came on from the airport) about 5 miles - just beyond the town of Kainalu.

* **Bite Me Grill and fish Market** has opened at the small boat harbor (you passed it on the way in from the airport) and offers many seafood options, including shrimp or fish tacos in an outdoor atmosphere that reminds us of something Jimmy Buffett might reminisce about in song. It's a great place to get VERY fresh fish to bring back to the "hale" to grill yourself. To get to Bite Me, take the boat harbor turn off and continue to the first right turn. Follow the road as it curves around the buildings and stored boats until you come to a left turn opportunity that leads to the boat ramp. You'll see Bite Me signs on the left side, near the parking lot.

* **Taco La Mar**, located in the Kona Commons shopping complex across from Target, offers quick, tasty and cheap tacos. The view isn't much, but they have the A/C cranked up.

* *Rapanui Island Café* is a brand new restaurant owned by a Kiwi (New Zealander) that we heard about too late to try (August 2010) but comes with good recommendations, including 5-star ratings on the Web. The food is Indonesian-Asian influenced. Prices are reported to be very reasonable. It's located at 75-5695 Ali'i Drive, a little shopping mall in the touristy part of Kailua. Dinner only.

Something more substantial

Huggo's and *Huggo's On The Rocks* on Ali'i Drive near downtown Kailua have been known to have excellent offerings. At *Huggo's On The Rocks* you dine outdoors on the sand, under an umbrella, with waves splashing nearby; the menu is more limited than at *Huggo's* (their fish tacos are great, as is their Kalua Pork! Yum!).

Huggo's proper has really good seafood dishes and the ocean front setting is very pleasant and beautiful.

Jackie Rey's Ohana Grill on Kuakini Highway has honest, tasty food for all sizes of appetite; the prices are reasonable, too. Whether you want a burger, a salad, or

a full-sized meal, you'll find it here in a friendly, non-touristy environment. The restaurant is located in a commercial spot that says "Pottery Terrace." There's a lunch and dinner menu in the box on the desk here at Hale Nanealoa.

Keei Café has become one of our favorites since we discovered it late in our visits to Kona. It is located about 5 miles south on Highway 11 - left hand side; don't blink or you will miss it. Their fish selections are excellent, and the wine list is one of the best in the area. Be sure to order the Coconut flan for dessert; it'll make you want to go back again. They only take cash - no checks or credit cards - and reservations are recommended. This restaurant is very popular with the locals, so you know it is relying on repeat business - a good sign.

The Outrigger Hotel, walking distance on Ali'i Drive, has a nice open dining room. Service has been a problem, but some of their dishes are very good. The seafood curry on a recent visit was outstanding. The hotel sometimes has musical events in their garden. *The Royal Thai* in the

Keauhou Shopping center offers fresh and well-prepared Thai food. The ambiance is bright and lively; you'll get a good, well-priced meal.

A spot that's very romantic and away from the tourist world is *Holuakoa Café and Gardens*, located in the artists' village of Holualoa. You'll be dining on delicious food in a protected garden while listening to the sounds of some great jazz from artists like Miles Davis and John Coltrane/Johnny Hartman. What's not to like?!

If you have the urge to spend a couple of hours dining in a romantic french country inn, *La Bourgogne* is your place. Located on Highway 11 heading north toward Kailua, it's been very favorably reviewed in Frommer's, Fodor's and other travel guides. You'll find a recent menu in the box on the desk. Since it only has 10 tables, reservations are a must. Call them at 808.329.6711. Note: the prices are not cheap; a three-course dinner for two will cost about \$120.

Kenichi located in the Keauhou Shopping Center is a hip location offering sushi-fusion cuisine that has been very

favorably reviewed. Its sister restaurants are located in Aspen and Austin. You can read about it at

<http://www.restauranteur.com/kenichi/>

La Pasta Ristorante at the corner of Kuikini and Hualalai near central Kona prepares some very tasty Italian food, served in an outdoor setting (overlooking a parking lot, but you can overlook that). Although it is only one block from Ali'i Drive on Hualalai, it doesn't get much tourist business; it's become a favorite of the locals.

farther afield

On a recent stay, we enjoyed a delicious meal at a seaside table at the *Kamuela Provisions Company*, located at the Hilton Waikoloa Hotel. The sunset was incredible. The hotel is so over-the-top - you can be taken to your room by light rail or by boat! - that it merits a visit just to see the hotel and grounds. The open corridors are filled with interesting museum-quality artifacts from cultures of the South Pacific. And of course there are lots of shops! The hotel now charges for parking (a

practice adopted by most large hotels) but if you don't mind walking a block or two further, you can park in the "Beach Access Parking" for free.

Our favorite "special occasion" restaurant is **Brown's Beach House at the fairmont Orchid** at Mauna Loa.

When you book your reservation, ask for a table at the edge of the patio where you'll be able to see the sunset best. This beautiful location looks like it was put together on PhotoShop!

Café Pesto, with locations in both Hilo and Kawaihae (45-60 minutes north of Hale Nanealoa), offers the best pizza on the Island, and fine other fare. We recently had a Pesto Burger at the Kawaihae spot that was worth the trip! We highly recommend it if you are in the neighborhood.

Merriman's has an outstanding reputation as the birthplace of Hawaiian Regional Cuisine; some people think it's the best restaurant on the island. The restaurant is located in Kamuela, near the famous Parker Ranch. You can read about the restaurant at

www.merrimanshawaii.com.

The eponymous **Daniel Thiebaut Restaurant** in Waimea offers french-Asian fare in a wonderful old store that has been lovingly restored to retain its traditional Hawaiiiana quality. We had a delicious meal there in July 2008 and again in August 2010. In August they were offering a 3-course dinner for \$35 with a choice of three appetizers, three entrees, and three desserts. If you go, you'll be lucky if they are serving the Strawberry Sunrise for desert (ask for vanilla ice cream instead of the usual raspberry sherbet). You can find out more about the food and the vision behind the restaurant at www.danielthiebaut.com.

The Kona Village is the place to go if you want to experience a luau. There is something essentially commercial about all luaus, but this one has a modicum of entertainment in a setting that enhances the experience. Their luaus take place every Friday, and reservations are essential.

The Vista at the Kona Country Club may have the best ocean sunset view on the entire Big Island - certainly on the Kona Coast. While we won't get behind the food (it's

perfectly OK, but not great) we do think that it is worth going there for a Chi Chi at sunset - even if you don't play golf.

Shopping!

The Keauhou Shopping Center has more shops than many people realize. In addition to the standbys of KTA Super Market and Long's Drugs, you will find gift shops, clothing stores, a 7 theater Cineplex, and many restaurants. There's also an "urgent care center." To find out what shops are located at the Center, check the white pages of the phone book under Keauhou Shopping Center. You can also call a number listed there to get the current movie offerings.

The **King's Shops** and the **Queen's Marketplace** at Waikoloa Beach Resort have all the high-end boutiques like Tiffany & Co., Louis Vuitton, and Coach. They also have a Macy's clothing store (men's and women's only) and many, many galleries and clothing stores. A larger **Macy's** can be found at Makalapua Shopping Center near Palani and Highway 11.

Books and Music

There's a good **Borders Bookstore and Café** at the corner of Highway 11 and Henry Street on the mauka (uphill, toward the mountains) side of the street. They have a great selection of Hawaiiana books and CDs. They also have a huge selection of magazines. If you're into support small, independent booksellers, try * **Kona Books** in the same complex as Annie's Burgers and Brew. There is an * **Island Naturals** natural food store in the complex, too. Easy to get to with easy parking, too.

finding wine

There are plenty of wines to be found at KTA and Safeway, but none of their selections is exceptional. Surprisingly, Costco has one of the better wine selections on the island but you have to be a member to shop there. You'll find a great selection of wines at the **Kona Wine Market** in the Kona Commons Shopping Center (across from Target) on Makala Boulevard.

Hale Nanealoa

Some fun Things to Do

There is so much to do around Keauhou: water sports, golf, hiking, markets, workshops and sightseeing. We suggest that you look into any of a number of reliable and interesting guidebooks for detailed information on activities and places to visit. There are several Big Island guidebooks in the cabinet near the entry. There is also a good map book of West Hawaii in the drawer of the entry cabinet. (Please don't leave it in your rental car!) There are so many things to see and do that you'll have to come back to the Big Island many times! Here are a few of our favorites.

An Appreciation

Recently, the Keauhou Kahu'u Heritage Center was opened as a gallery at the Keauhou Shopping Center to display the work being undertaken to restore the ancient Hawaiian sacred places in the Keauhou area. It's a very interesting display that we hope you will visit. We want to call your

attention to the black lava area across from Hale Nanealoa and adjacent to the swimming pool; it is one such sacred place. Standing on our lower lanai, you can see the remains of a heiau (a stone temple of ancient Hawaiians). Out of respect for the sacredness of this site and its importance to Hawaiian culture, you are respectfully requested not to climb onto this area. It is not part of Na Hale O Keauhou; it is an historical preserve.

Morning walks

There are plenty of places to walk near Hale Nanealoa, and if you like to walk you are sure to discover your own pleasures. Here are a couple of walks we like to take in the morning before it gets too warm:

- 1) Fantastic views and a good cardio workout can be had by turning left as you leave the Na Hale O Keauhou entrance, continue to the far side of the intersection and turn right, crossing Ali'i Drive. (You are now on Ali'i Highway.) Continue on Ali'i Highway for two blocks and turn left. Climb the curving road up the hill for some of the most

spectacular views to be found anywhere on the Big Island. Time: about 45 minutes round trip, depending on how high you choose to go.

2) A walk to Keauhou Bay, gentle and rewarding, starts the same way as walk #1 but this time, don't continue to the far side of the intersection; cross Ali'i Drive and continue to the next stop light. Turn right and continue down the gentle hill to the left, all the way to Keauhou Bay. You'll find the outrigger club boats stored above the bay, and the kayaks that are available for outings. While you are here, be sure to see the beautiful little memorial garden that marks the birthplace of King Kamehameha III. You can catch the **fairwind** trips here, too; the boat departs at 8:30 (reservations required; see more below). Walking time: about 30 minutes round trip.

3) To get close to the ocean and see some fantastic and gloriously beautiful crashing waves that shoot spouts of spray high overhead, head for the historic trail at the end of Ali'i Highway. Start

the same way as other walks, but don't turn right or left once you get on Ali'i Highway. You can drive to the trail entrance if you don't want to take the time to walk there. The trail itself is actually a private gravel drive but cars are not permitted. Next to the trailhead is the Lekeleke burial ground. In 1820, a fierce battle was fought here between Lihiliho and her cousin, Kekuaokalani. Lihiliho had abolished the "kapu" religious system and her cousin challenged her authority to do this. Using Western weapons, Lihiliho won the bloody battle that changed Hawaiian beliefs forever. From the trailhead to the ocean is only about a quarter mile. Walking time: about an hour and twenty minutes; wear sunscreen and bring water.

Kahalu'u Beach Park

Kahalu'u Beach Park is within walking distance from Hale Nanealoa (5 to 10 minutes depending on how eager you are to get in the water). Turn right on leaving Na Hale O Keauhou and continue on Ali'i Drive to the

beach. The Bay is a protected marine preserve that offers excellent snorkeling and swimming. You will see many of Hawaii's famous and colorful reef fish, occasional eels and green sea turtles. The best viewing is out toward the breakwater where the water is usually sparklingly clear and there are many coral heads that are worth seeing in their own right. AAA rates Kahalu'u the best snorkeling beach on the Big Island. (You'll find some snorkel gear in the garage; be sure to wear reef shoes - two pair are in the garage). There are bathrooms, fresh-water showers, a snack truck and lifeguards at the beach.

Kahalu'u Sea and Surf is a surf shop on Ali'i Drive across from the beach. They offer surfing lessons and rent boogie and surf boards. We have boogie boards in the garage.

Kealakekua Bay/ Captain Cook Monument

Kealakekua (Pathway to the Gods) Bay is just south of Keauhou. The bay is a protected marine preserve that offers unparalleled diving and snorkeling. We have enjoyed guided snorkeling trips to Kealakekua Bay with the **fairwind** - a half-day adventure on the company's

catamaran and we always encourage friends to take the morning sail.

Another way to experience the Bay is by kayak; this is truly an amazing experience. The paddle across the Bay to the Captain Cook Monument is about 1 mile (2 miles round trip). The cobalt water is calm and warm.

Paddlers are often joined by pods of Spinner dolphins that come into the bay. Kayaks can be rented in the town of Captain Cook. Recent regulation of kayaks in the Bay by the county requires that all kayak outings be led by a guide to ensure protection of the marine preserve. There is also a great albeit strenuous hike from the turn-off to Kealakekua Bay (from Highway 11) to the Monument.

Kayak rentals can also be had at Keauhou Bay. There are guided groups leaving every morning. Looks like fun, but we've yet to do it. You can walk to Keauhou Bay from Hale Nanealoa in less than 20 minutes - and it's an enjoyable walk, too.

City of Refuge

Pu'uhonua O Honaunau National Historical Park is of major cultural and historical significance. Located

south of Kailua-Kona about an hour, this 182-acre site includes the puuhonua (refuge for people who had transgressed the chief and were at risk of being put to death) and a complex of archeological sites, including temple platforms, royal fishponds, sledding tracks and some coastal village sites. It definitely merits a visit.

The favorite snorkeling spot of our son (as well as many locals) is located on the bay at Honaunau; it is called *
“Two Step” because of the two ledges (not steps) that drop off from the lava shore. Entry into the bay is easy and, if you are comfortable in deep water, you will find yourself swimming with spinner dolphins 100 yards or so off shore. Parking can be a problem on weekends when locals come to picnic and hang out.

Holualoa

Holualoa, located on the lush and beautiful Kona Heritage Corridor, is named for the long slide to the sea that this location offered the Ali'i (the Royals of Hawaiian society). In years past, this was a bustling farming community. Today the feeling of old Hawai'i remains, but the face of the Village has changed. In place

of pool halls and saloons are now art galleries, quaint shops and the renowned Donkey Mill Arts Center in an old coffee mill. Some of Hawai'i's most famous artists have galleries or exhibit here. We have also found the student and instructor exhibits at the Center to be very worthwhile. Don't miss Holualoa!

The Kohala Coast

North of the airport are the famous resorts of the Kohala Coast. We've visited them all, but the Mauna Kea Beach Resort at the far end of the line remains our favorite for ambiance and sentiment. The resorts are good places to plan for spa and massage treatments away from town. By the way, if you are looking for the famous white sand beaches of the post cards, this is where you'll find it, and you are welcome to visit the beach during the day if you get there early enough to get a visitor-parking permit. All the hotels are required to provide beach access to locals and other visitors, but the parking spaces are limited.

Hapuna Beach, a bit to the south of the Mauna Kea, is a public beach with much going for it including lots of families, great body surfing, a food shack with all the local favorites and more. (Crowds and families are a good thing!!)

Hilo

If you've come to the Big Island just for sun and surf, Hilo may not be your idea of a good time. But for the rest of you, don't miss Hilo. The drive over to the East side of the island is an experience in wonderment. You will see the incredible tropical landscape that 150 inches of rain produces! Hilo, the wettest city in the United States, is a total sleepy backwater that has a charm that can't be found elsewhere on the island. Be sure to see Rainbow Falls, practically downtown, and take the staircase to the left to see what is probably the largest Banyan tree on the island. The tree canopy is utterly amazing, not to mention the tangle of roots below. Be sure to lunch at **Café Pesto**, next to the farmer's Market; market days are Wednesday and Saturday. If you are interested in art, there are two worthwhile

galleries in Hilo: **Arthur Johnson's** on Wainuenue Street (which leads to Rainbow Falls) and the **Dreams of Paradise Gallery** next to Café Pesto.

If you stay overnight in Hilo, be sure to get up (very) early and go to the **Suisun Fish Market** near Banyan Drive. You'll see the morning's catch brought in and auctioned off. The variety of fish is fascinating to see.

Volcanoes National Park

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park displays the results of 70 million years of volcanism, migration, and evolution - processes that thrust a bare land from the sea and clothed it with unique ecosystems, and a distinct human culture. The park highlights two of the world's most active volcanoes, and offers insights on the birth of the Hawaiian Islands and views of dramatic volcanic landscapes. Be sure to visit the *** Jagger Interpretive Center** to get a better understanding of what's going on with the volcanoes and the research that is currently underway. The park is definitely worth a visit, even though the lava flows are no longer visible from the park.

Currently (August 2010) the lava flows can only be seen in the Pahoa area, near the famous Black Sand Beach.

If you are at the volcanoes around mealtime, be sure to go to the town of Volcano that is just off the highway, and look for * [The Keawe Kitchen](#). We had a delicious lunch there recently: gourmet food, gourmet wine list!

The visit to the volcanoes is a very full day and evening outing. We prefer to spend the night in Hilo at the * [Hilo Hawaiian Hotel](#) and make a two-day visit out of it to see and do all the interesting things available on the wet side of the island. If you make it an overnight stay, you'll get a great dinner at the * [Seaside Restaurant](#) in what seems to be an industrial area as you are driving toward it. The Macadamia nut crusted mahi-mahi is delish! Reservations recommended, as it is very popular with the locals.

[Mauna Kea Observatories](#)

Want to take a trip to the moon? You can feel like you're ON the moon when you get to the Mauna Kea observatories. Hawaii is Earth's connecting point to the

rest of the Universe. The summit of Mauna Kea on the Island of Hawaii hosts the world's largest astronomical observatory, with 13 telescopes operated by astronomers from eleven countries. The combined light-gathering power of the telescopes on Mauna Kea is fifteen times greater than that of the Palomar telescope in California -- for many years the world's largest -- and sixty times greater than that of the Hubble Space Telescope. If you have any interest in astronomy or science in general, this is an outing you are bound to enjoy. Because the observatories are around 12,000 feet above sea level, you'll need to have warm clothes - people actually ski on Mauna Kea after some winter storms blanket it with snow! - and readiness to deal with some shortness of breath (due to reduced oxygen levels), but the experience is totally worth it. There are several outfitters that will take you there in comfort and they usually provide the needed warm jackets you probably didn't think you'd need!

Natural Energy Research Laboratory

If there is a budding scientist in your group, or even just someone curious about new developments, an outing to the Natural Energy Research Lab (NERL) will prove interesting. There are a wide variety of projects and programs going on at the laboratory and several times a day volunteers present an overview of what's underway. Hawaii is one of the few places in the world where the drop-off into deep water is so close to land, and the research at the center is demonstrating how energy can be generated based on the temperature differentials between deep water and surface water. The cold water brought up from the deep ocean serves as a resource for, among other things, fish and shellfish farming (including shrimp and abalone!) and growing deep green algae, the source of important antioxidants. One of the companies at NERL is breeding sea horses for aquariums. Some start-up companies at the laboratory are secretive about their work, but others are happy to tell all. The NERL is located off Highway 11 about half way to the airport. Highway signs identify where to turn.

SCUBA Diving

One of our friends who lived at Na Hale O Keauhou is an avid SCUBA diver and travels the world for diving experiences. She prefers Jack's Diving Locker for her near-daily dives. Jack's is located across the street from Huggo's, on Ali'i Drive. If you need any kind of snorkeling or dive gear, this is the place to shop. The staff is all very knowledgeable and helpful, and will fit you properly for a good in-the-water experience.

Golf Discounts

Information on golf green fee discounts can be found in the box on the desk in Hale Nanealoa or by calling Island Discount Golf at 808.334-1771. See their ad in the Yellow Pages. A \$25 annual membership will save you a whole lot on green fees on courses all over the Big Island.

Join the search for the Island's best Chi Chi

We are always looking for a great Chi Chi. We like the ones we get at sunset at the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel or at the Mauna Lani, but that is a long way to drive for a Chi

Chi! The ones served at The Vista aren't too bad! If you find one you think is outstanding, tell us about it in the guest comments book in the unit. On our latest visit, we tried a Chi Chi at * [Don the Beachcombers](#), located at the Royal Kona Resort on Ali'i Drive, and they may be the best yet. It's a beautiful spot to enjoy your favorite libation and watch the sunset. If you are here in August, look for their International Mai Tai Competition. Or, if you're not here in August, you can try their Mai Tai sampler of three different recipes any day of the year.

Guestbook updated August 2010. New restaurants and new recommendations identified with a red asterisk.