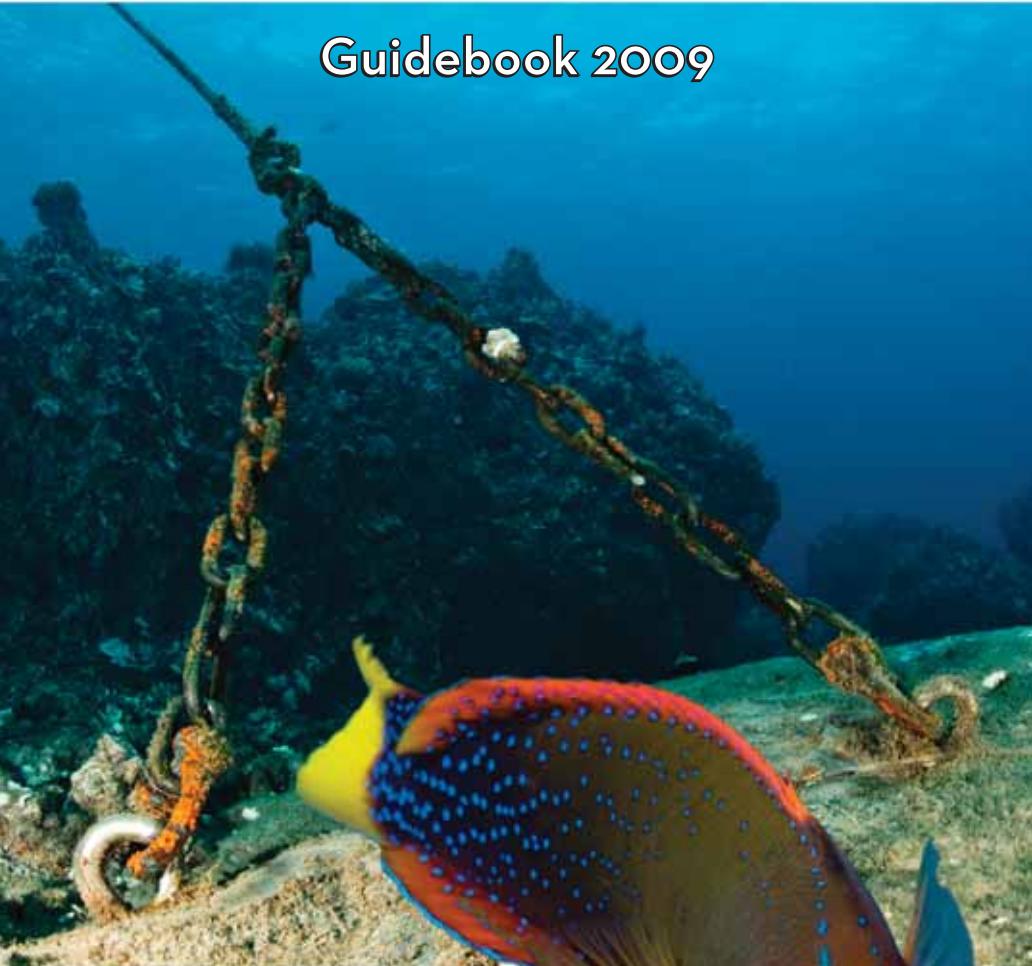
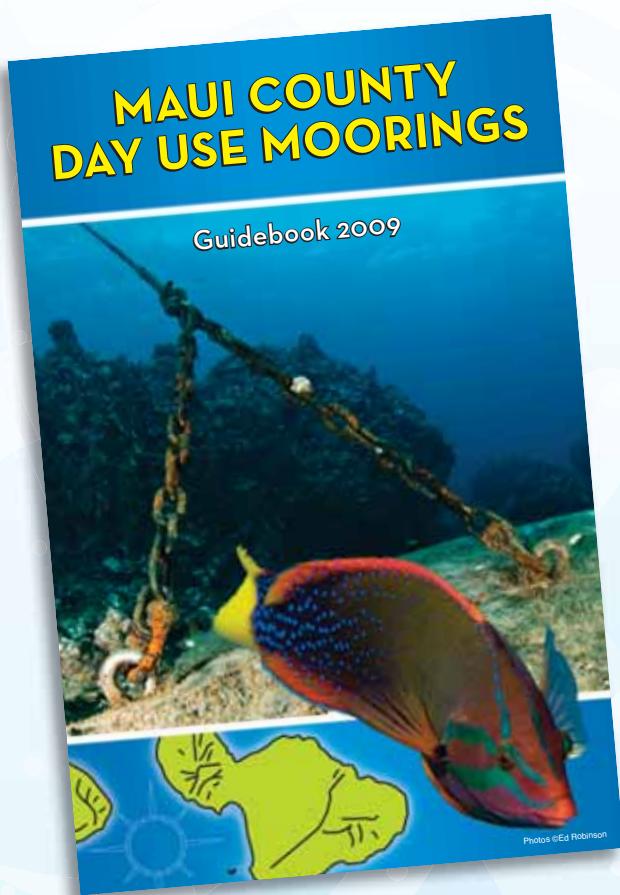


# MAUI COUNTY DAY-USE MOORINGS

Guidebook 2009



Photos ©Ed Robinson



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# Important Contact Numbers

## To Report Day-Use Mooring Buoy Problems

**Contact Department Of Boating & Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) call (808) 243-5824**

(808) is the area code for all the Hawaiian Islands

## EMERGENCY

Fire Department .....	911
Police Department.....	244-6400 or 911
Coast Guard.....	873-3105
Maui Monk Seal Sightings Hotline.....	292-2372
Turtle Strandings.....	893-3172 or 893-3050
Marine Mammal Entanglement Hotline.....	1-888-256-9840
Chamber - Hyperbaric DAN Hawaii .....	1-800-587-3425

## HOSPITALS

Maui Memorial Medical Center .....	244-9056
Lahaina Clinic.....	662-6900
Kihei Clinic .....	891-6800
Lana'i Community Hospital.....	565-6411

## LICENSING SERVICES

Boating Registration .....	243-5824
Fishing Licenses .....	243-5294

## OTHER NUMBERS OF INTEREST

Coast Guard.....	873-3105
Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).....	643-3567
Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR).....	243-5294
Division of Boating & Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) .....	243-5824
Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement (DOCARE) .....	873-3990
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries .....	1-888-256-9840
Kahului Harbor .....	873-3350
Lahaina Boat Harbor .....	662-4060
Ma'alea Boat Harbor.....	243-5818
Manele Boat Harbor.....	559-0723
Maui Visitors Bureau .....	1-800-525-6284
National Marine Fisheries Service .....	541-2727
Natural Area Reserve (NARS).....	873-3506
Weather Forecast Information.....	877-5111
Maui Marine Forecast.....	1-866-944-5025

# About Day-Use Moorings

## Day-Use Moorings Rules:

Day-use moorings are for public use and available on a first-come, first-served basis and vessels are restricted to a 2.5 hour use per day, if another vessel is waiting (Chapter 13-257, Hawaii Administrative Rules). Overnight mooring is prohibited, except in case of emergency or by enforcement or rescue craft.

Anchoring by other vessels is not allowed within a hundred yards of an established mooring (Chapter 13-257, Hawaii Administrative Rules). Anchoring elsewhere in a day-use mooring zone is permitted in areas of sand, rock, or rubble bottom types where no live corals exist.

*\*Larger vessels may not be safely moored during moderate to rough sea conditions.*

## Why Use a Day-Use Mooring?

The coral polyps that make up a coral reef are very delicate animals. Anchors and chains can have a devastating effect on corals, breaking apart in seconds what took decades to build.

Mooring buoys have proven to be an effective system around the world in reducing the damage to coral reefs caused by anchors. They eliminate the need to drop anchor on coral reefs by providing boaters with a convenient and safe means of securing their boats.

Maui County has a total of 59 existing public Day-Use Moorings. A permit application for an additional fifteen moorings has been submitted and is currently under review.



## Threats to the Coral Reef

### Anchoring can:

**Destroy corals:** Anchors and chain damage coral reefs by crushing and killing the corals they fall on.  
**Prevent new corals from growing:** Repeated anchor drops and chain drags will break up the underlying reef (coral substrate) and prevent new corals from developing.

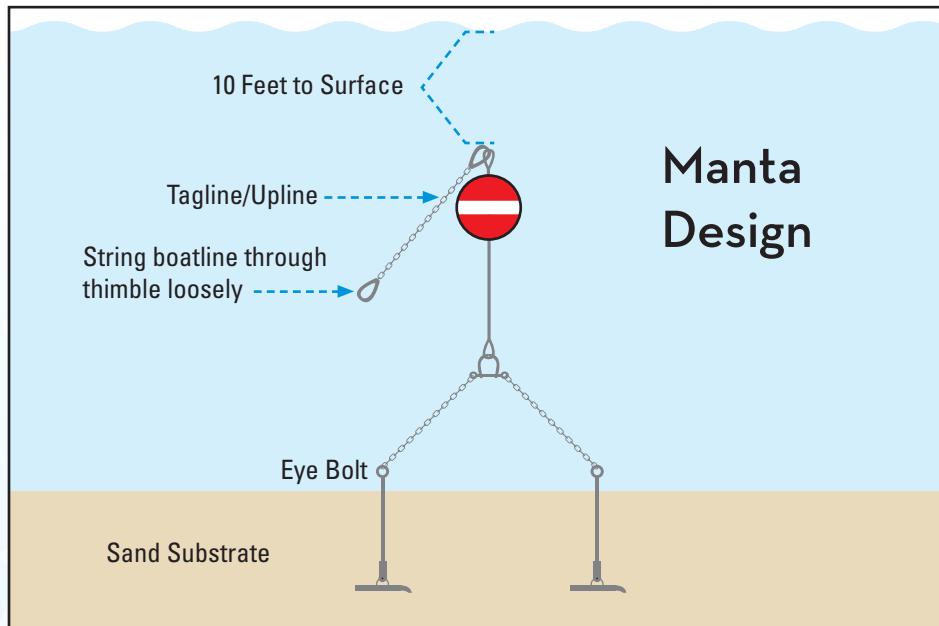
**Scar and make corals vulnerable to disease:** Anchor chains can strip the live tissue off corals, causing widespread scarring, and leaving the injured corals open to infection.

**Create clouding in the water column:** Anchoring can cloud the water with disturbed sediment that can choke corals and limit the amount of sunlight that corals' symbiotic algae require to make food.

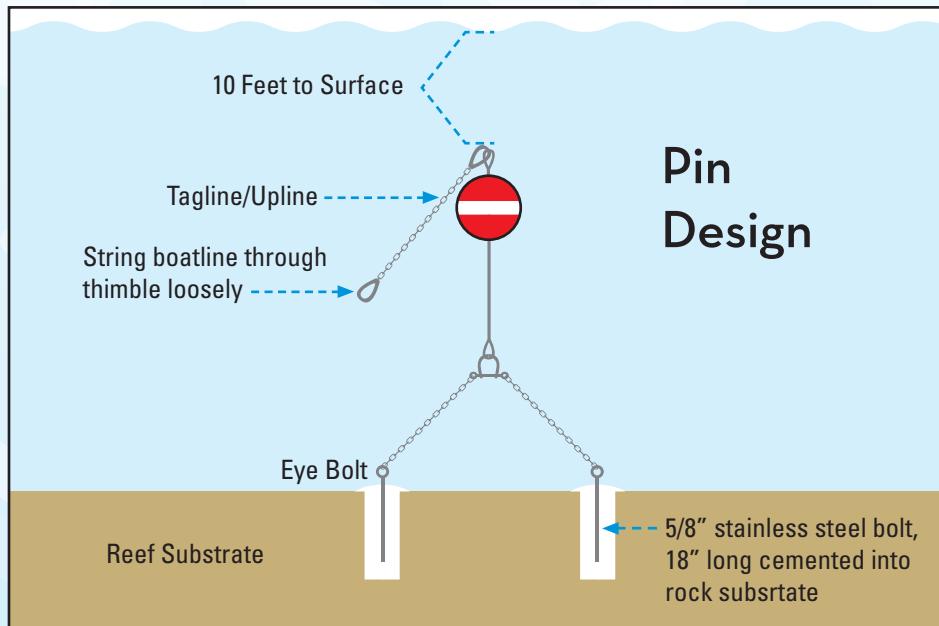
**Tear up seaweed beds:** Anchors and long chains destroy seaweed beds by tearing them up from sandy or soft bottom environments.

**Mahalo for doing your part to help limit the threat of damage to our coral reefs!**

# Mooring Diagrams



## Manta Design



In both designs above, a mooring buoy and the associated tackle is attached to eye bolt and pin. The buoy is placed about ten feet below the surface.

# Mooring Practices for Proper Use & Care

### Some Guidelines on Anchoring

- 1) Look for a mooring rather than dropping anchor. (This mooring booklet was put together to help guide you).
- 2) Use your boat hook or have someone in the water grab the upline. Take your bowline, thread it through the upline's thimble and tie it off on your boat cleat.
- 3) Do not attach the upline directly to your cleat. That can cause the mooring to wear out faster, and depending on the size of the boat, could potentially yank the mooring out of the bottom.
- 4) Allow the threaded bowline enough slack to have some play in the swells. (Again, to avoid wear and tear to the mooring, or causing the mooring to be pulled out).
- 5) Report faulty or damaged moorings to the DLNR (643-3567), DOBOR or DAR.

### To Minimize Maintenance:

Moorings require regular maintenance. If boat operators take the time and care to tie up properly, the amount of maintenance required on moorings can be significantly reduced. In order to keep moorings functioning well and avoid excessive maintenance costs or labor, consider adopting the following techniques.

### Always be Generous with Bowline Scope.

It is important to remember that the more scope you have, the less force and pull from the weight of the boat will actually make it all the way down to the mooring anchor point itself. More scope allows the mooring system to absorb more stress and provides a more comfortable experience for those onboard. Make sure, however, that you do not put out so much scope that your boat will be in danger of hitting the shore or other boats in the immediate area.

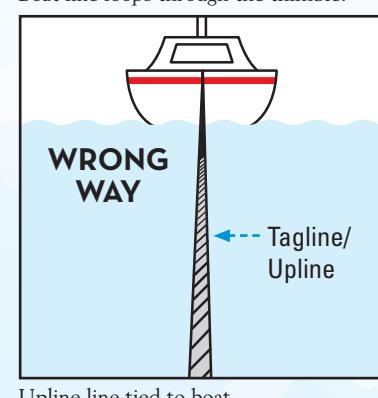
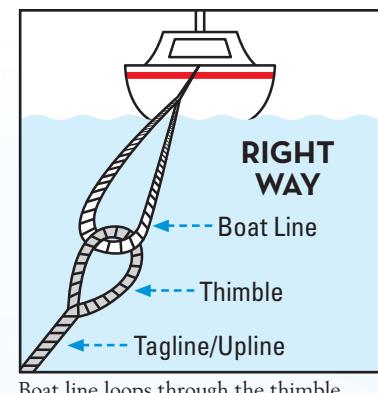
### Avoid Tying Off in Heavy Weather or Swells.

It's better to avoid tying off to moorings in heavy weather and swells. Remember that even though moorings can be strong and durable, they are not indestructible.

### Do Not Back Down on Moorings.

Continual pressure can damage, weaken or destroy a mooring.

Take caution; use good seamanship skills to see how slowly and easily a vessel can tie up to a mooring. Make an extra effort as captain and crew to be gentle and treat the moorings well. In other words, consciously avoid being heavy-handed on your boat throttles. **Use seamanship skills and be "gentle."**



# Safety & Etiquette Guidelines

## FOR SNORKELING, DIVING & BOATING

- 1) Carefully select entry and exit points to avoid areas of reef. Avoid surf zones and watch for currents.
- 2) Always have a buddy.
- 3) Practice good fin stroke and body control to avoid accidental contact with the reef.
- 4) Practice neutral buoyancy and train others to do so.
- 5) Keep gauges, fins and other accessories from dragging on the bottom.
- 6) Respect all marine life and do not harass (chase, touch, poke, feed) them.
- 7) Observe marine life approach laws and recommended approach limits:
  - Give sea turtles at least a 20-foot radius of approach.
  - Give monk seals at least a 100-foot radius of approach (law).
  - Give dolphins at least a 50-yard radius of approach.
  - Give whales 100-yard radius of approach (law).
- 8) Take only pictures and leave only bubbles – do not collect shells or organisms.
- 9) Observe animals exhibiting their natural behaviors rather than stimulate them to entertain.
- 10) Do not feed marine life; they are fine without us and can become aggressive if fed.
- 11) Avoid grasping the coral, standing on it, or kicking up sediment.
- 12) Apply a waterproof sunscreen at least 30 minutes prior to entering the water.



Always keep your eyes on the waves.

Keep safety equipment handy - i.e. floatation, flares, and calling capabilities.

Never leave the boat unattended.

Motor outside moored boats to avoid snorkel and diver collisions.

A dive flag is to be posted if there are divers or snorkelers in the water within 50 ft. of the flag. Likewise do not motor within 50 ft. of a dive flag to avoid motoring over divers or snorkelers.

- If approaching a mooring in use, attempt radio contact with moored vessel to coordinate use of mooring, and navigate carefully should they have divers below.
- When on a mooring, have radio on at a high enough volume and tuned to ch. 16, so approaching vessels can contact you.
- If approaching a vessel with a dive flag, approach slowly and carefully to avoid driving near divers' bubbles.



# About Molokini

Molokini is the little crescent shaped islet off Maui's southwestern coast. Because it sits three miles offshore, the water quality here is extremely high and supports a very healthy reef system that shows no sign of decline in coral surveys done by DLNR. Being a protected area further enhances its reefs and marine life. Over 300 species of reef fish live in a diverse range of habitats and because so many divers and snorkelers have visited Molokini, many of them allow close observation.

## Snorkeling at Molokini:

The snorkeling moorings at Molokini are located right along the inside of the crater rim so that snorkelers can be in just a few feet of water and have a close-up view of the reef and its inhabitants. The presence of so many snorkelers at Molokini over the years has made fish much less fearful of people and so a careful snorkeler can observe fish behavior that is difficult to see elsewhere. Because fish feeding is not allowed, snorkelers can see - in water that is usually crystal clear - fish eating their normal diet and chasing away intruders, as well as eels and even whitetip reef sharks swimming by.

## Offshore Island:

Molokini is a crescent shaped islet located in the 'Alalakeiki Channel about 3 miles off Maui's southwestern coast. Access is by boat only, and charter boats operate out of Ma'alaea Harbor, Kihei Boat Ramp, and Lahaina Harbor.

Molokini is an extinct volcano that is now designated as a State Marine Life and Bird Conservation District. Its crescent shape acts as a fortress that provides protection from waves and powerful currents.



## Safety Considerations:

The best conditions for visiting the islet are early in the morning. Current can always be a problem outside of the cove, and may get stronger inside during the afternoon when winds pick up.

# Marine Life Conservation District Overview

The MLCD is divided into two subzones. Subzone A includes the cove, bounded by a line extending from the end of the submerged rim off Lalil'ali Point to Pahe'e o Lono Point. Subzone B extends 100 yards seaward of the islet and of Subzone A.

## REGULATIONS:

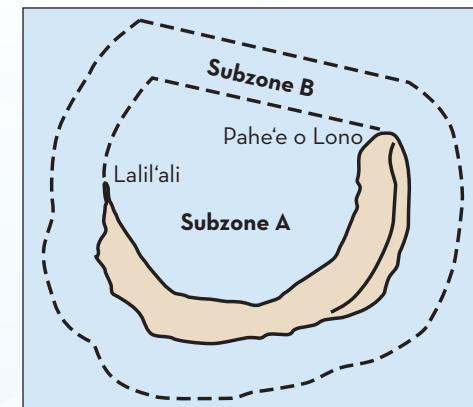
### Permitted Activities:

- To fish for, take, or possess any finfish by trolling in Subzone B only.
- To possess in the water any knife and any shark billy, bang stick, powerhead, or carbon dioxide injector.
- With a permit, to engage in activities otherwise prohibited by law for scientific, propagation, or other purposes.
- To engage in commercial activities, excluding the taking of marine life, with a permit.

### Prohibited Activities:

- To fish for, take, or injure any marine life (including eggs), or possess in the water any device that may be used for the taking of marine life, except as indicated in "Permitted Activities" above.
- To take or alter any sand, coral, or other geological feature or specimen, or possess in the water any device that may be used for the taking or altering of a geological feature or specimen.
- To feed or deliberately introduce any food material, substance, or attractant directly to or in the vicinity of any aquatic organism by any means or for any purpose except for trolling in Subzone B.
- To moor boats for commercial activities, except as provided for by a permit.
- To anchor boats when a day-use mooring system is established by the Department.

**Note:** Molokini is a state seabird sanctuary, and entry onto the islet is prohibited.



# Molokini Mooring Coordinates

	Mooring	Latitude	Longitude	Bottom Depth	Ball Depth	Mooring Type
M O L O K I N I M O O R I N G S	A	20 38.043 N	156 29.647 W	40 feet	16 feet	Pin
	B	20 38.037 N	156 29.680 W	106 feet	10 feet	Manta
	C	20 38.023 N	156 29.667 W	42 feet	9 feet	Pin
	D	20 37.996 N	156 29.713 W	103 feet	10 feet	Manta
	E	20 37.992 N	156 29.672 W	37 feet	7 feet	Pin
	F	20 37.982 N	156 29.710 W	83 feet	10 feet	Manta
	G	20 37.970 N	156 29.714 W	78 feet	10 feet	Manta
	H	20 37.955 N	156 29.718 W	72 feet	10 feet	Manta
	I	20 37.954 N	156 29.734 W	73 feet	10 feet	Manta
	J	20 37.967 N	156 29.739 W	75 feet	10 feet	Manta
	K	20 37.962 N	156 29.769 W	62 feet	10 feet	Manta
	L	20 37.972 N	156 29.787 W	62 feet	10 feet	Manta
	M	20 37.972 N	156 29.798 W	62 feet	10 feet	Manta
	N	20 37.970 N	156 29.812 W	62 feet	10 feet	Manta
R E E F ' S   S E N D	O	20 37.964 N	156 29.823 W	53 feet	10 feet	Manta
	P	20 37.963 N	156 29.835 W	49 feet	10 feet	Manta
	Q	20 37.957 N	156 29.844 W	44 feet	10 feet	Manta
	R	20 37.954 N	156 29.853 W	41 feet	10 feet	Manta
	S	20 37.954 N	156 29.865 W	38 feet	10 feet	Manta
	T	20 37.970 N	156 29.871 W	38 feet	10 feet	Manta
	U	20 38.001 N	156 29.869 W	44 feet	5 feet	Manta
	V	20 38.039 N	156 29.873 W	48 feet	12 feet	Manta
	W	20 38.006 N	156 29.814 W	80 feet	10 feet	Manta
	X	20 38.052 N	156 29.849 W	55 feet	12 feet	Manta
	Y	20 38.094 N	156 29.835 W	63 feet	10 feet	Manta
	Z	20 38.094 N	156 29.849 W	40 feet	10 feet	Pin

# Molokini Zones: Enenue & Mid Reef

## Enenue (Moorings A-F)

Inside the eastern point of Molokini's crescent are several moorings located at the top of a steep slope which drops toward the center of the crater. Dark crevices on the slope are home to different species of lobsters, octopus and eels. This is a great spot to see large jacks which are heavily fished for elsewhere, but are protected at Molokini and patrol this slope regularly. When there is current, gray reef sharks often hover out on the point, particularly in the summer when they congregate to mate and give birth.



©Ed Robinson  
Antler Coral/Damselfish • *ko'a/alo 'ilo'* {Endemic}



©Ed Robinson  
Saddle Wrasse • *hinalea lauwili* {Endemic}

\*Endemic - Species found only in the Hawaiian islands.

## Mid Reef (Moorings G-T)

Several moorings dot the outermost sand channel inside Molokini. On one side of the sand is an extremely healthy coral reef that is protected from large surf by the rim of Molokini. A variety of coral-eating butterflyfish and yellow tangs make their home over and within this reef. On the opposite side of the sand is a mixture of coral and rock where eels and octopus are regularly seen. Equally interesting is the sand channel itself which is home to hundreds of black sea cucumbers and unusual snake eels and where numerous furrows indicate the presence of snails active beneath the sand. The sand channel serves almost as an entryway for pelagic animals which swim up this channel throughout the year.



©Ed Robinson  
Manta Ray • *hahalua*

# Molokini Zones: Reef's End & Back Wall

## Reef's End (Moorings U-Z)

This mooring is located right at the tip of the submerged rim of the cone. From here divers can head either down the slope on the outside of the cone or head toward the inside of the crater. There is often current at this mooring and schools of pyramid butterflyfish and damselfish occupy the water column feeding on plankton arriving in the current. A large colony of garden eels lives on this point for the same reason and allows divers to get fairly close. Dark ledges create hiding places for moray eels, whitetip reef sharks and nocturnal fish tucked away until dusk.



©Ed Robinson  
Racoon Butterflyfish • *kikakapu*



©Ed Robinson  
Potter's Angelfish

## Back Wall

There are no moorings along the back wall because the bottom is just over 300 feet deep which, among other reasons, would make installing them impractical. This side of the island faces the open ocean and at different times receives large swells and strong winds, so diving is properly done here only when conditions are good. This area is steeply sloped or vertical with some shaded overhangs where black coral and orange cup coral thrive. Deep crevices house many special animals such as pipefish, shrimps and crabs. The same large animals such as rays and sharks that are seen on the front of Molokini can be seen here too.

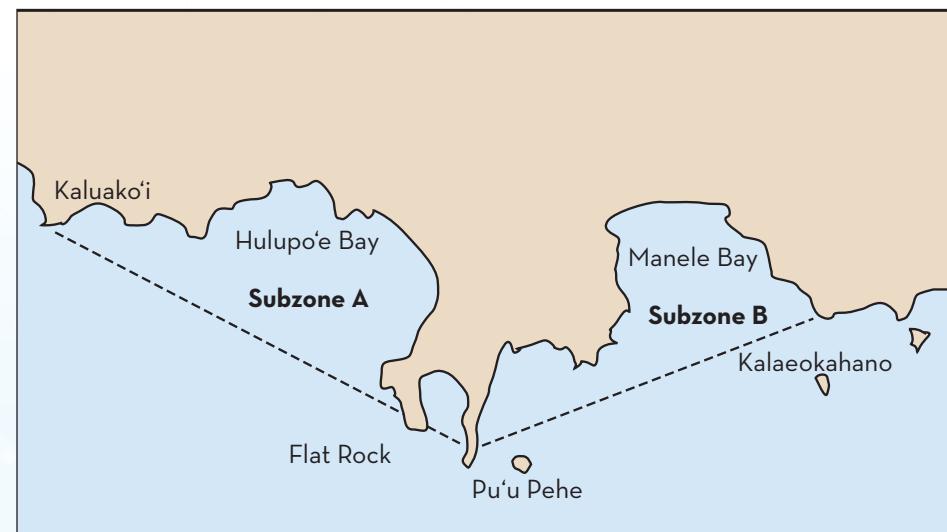


©Ed Robinson  
Pyramid Butterflyfish



©Ed Robinson  
Peacock Grouper

# Manele Bay Conservation District Overview



Manele Bay Conservation District. Approximately 309 acres, established 1976.

## MLCD Overview

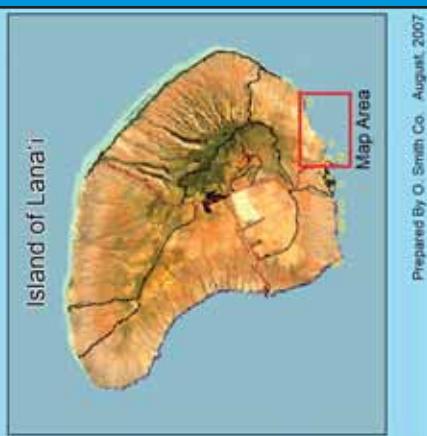
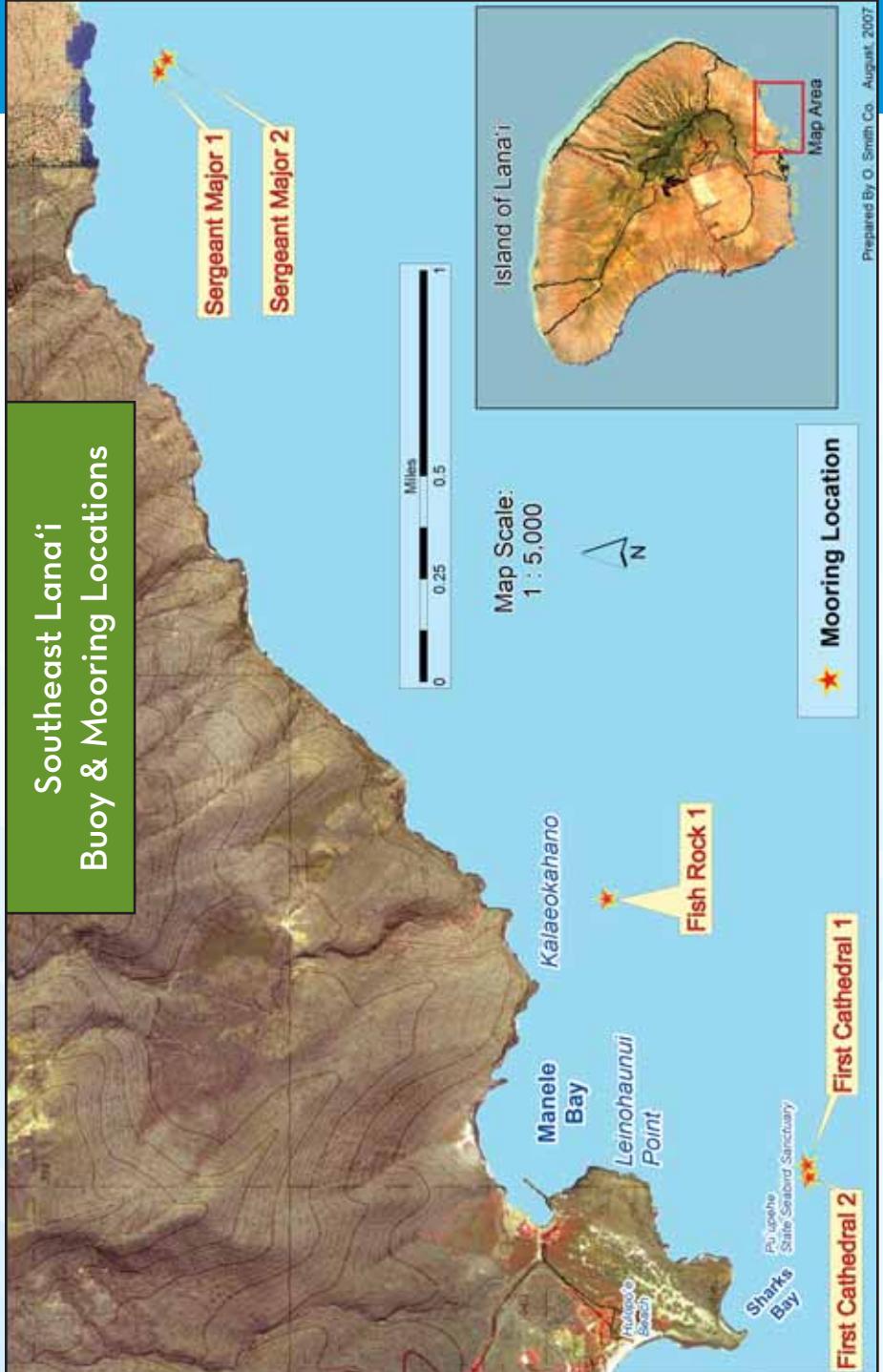
- Marine Life Conservation Districts are established by the state's Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), as authorized by Chapter 190 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes.
- The purpose of MLCDs is to protect marine life to the greatest extent possible. The taking of any type of living material (fishes, eggs, shells, corals, algae, etc.) and non-living habitat material (sand, rocks, coral skeletons, etc.) is generally restricted, if it is permitted at all. This fosters non-consumptive uses of the area, such as swimming, snorkeling and diving.
- Signs located at each MLCD indicate the District's boundaries and describe regulations for the area. For further information you can consult the current Hawai'i Fishing Regulations booklet, or contact the nearest DAR office (See phone number page).

## Safety considerations

All areas can have dangerous swells and currents during southern (Kona) storms.

# Sergeant Major 1

{ SOUTHEAST LANAI }



## >Description of Bearings

### Sergeant Major 1

Latitude (GPS) – 20.45.277 N

Longitude (GPS) – 156.50.680 W

Mooring depth – 15 feet

Ball depth – 10 feet

Mooring type – single pin

## Getting Here/Finding Mooring

The buoy is located on the southeastern coast of Lanai, about 1/2 mile southwest of Kamaiki Point.



## What's Below

A series of three parallel lava ridges that run perpendicular to shore is the main area to explore here, with the mooring attached to the seaward end of the most westward ridge (The Sergeant Minor (a.k.a. Sergeant Major 2) mooring is attached to the most eastern ridge). There are several small caves, lava tubes, and a beautiful archway that connects two of the ridges. Depth ranges from 15 to 60 feet. Sergeant Major is a great place for those who like to look in holes and under ledges. Some are occupied by whitetip reef sharks and moray eels. Hawaiian green sea turtles live here, and above the reef the water is teeming with Hawaiian sergeants and other plankton feeders. Occasionally Hawaiian spinner dolphins even pass by this site.

Whitetip Reef Shark • *mano lala kea*Hawaiian Sergeant • *mamo* {Endemic}

## Important Information

**Boat Traffic** – Commercial dive boats usually visit this site as a second dive.

**Weather Factor** – All south-facing sites are affected by south swell, more often in the summer months.

# Sergeant Major 2

{ SOUTHEAST LANA'I }

## 📍 Description of Bearings

### **Sergeant Major 2**

Latitude (GPS) – 20.45.293 N

Longitude (GPS) – 156.50.707 W

Mooring depth – 35 feet

Ball depth – 12 feet

Mooring type – single pin

Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins • *nai'a*

## 📍 Getting Here/Finding Mooring

The mooring buoy is located on the southeastern coast of Lana'i, about 1/2 mile southwest of Kamaiki Point.

## 📍 What's Below

A series of three parallel lava ridges that run perpendicular to shore is the main area to explore here, with the mooring attached to the seaward end of the most westward ridge (The Sergeant Minor (a.k.a. Sergeant Major 2) mooring is attached to the most eastern ridge). There are several small caves, lava tubes, and a beautiful archway that connects two of the ridges. Depth ranges from 15 to 60 feet. Sergeant Major is a great place for those who like to look in holes and under ledges. Some are occupied by whitetip reef sharks and moray eels. Hawaiian green sea turtles live here, and above the reef the water is teeming with Hawaiian sergeants and other plankton feeders. Occasionally Hawaiian spinner dolphins even pass by this site.

## ⓘ Important Information

**Boat Traffic** – Commercial dive boats usually visit this site as a second dive.

**Weather Factor** – All south-facing sites are affected by south swell, more often in the summer months.

# Fish Rock/Fish Rock 1

{ SOUTHEAST LANA'I }

## 📍 Description of Bearings

### **Fish Rock/Fish Rock 1**

Latitude (GPS) – 20.44.368 N

Longitude (GPS) – 156.52.582 W

Mooring depth – 10 feet

Ball depth – 4 feet

Mooring type – single pin

## 📍 Getting Here/Finding Mooring

The mooring buoy is located on the southern coast of Lana'i to the east of the entrance to Manele Bay Harbor and slightly inshore from the harbor buoy. A rock pinnacle breaking the surface marks the location of the dive area, with the mooring located on a submerged pinnacle the same distance from shore and approximately 75 yards east of the rock pinnacle that breaks the surface.

**Safety Consideration** – The reef is quite close to the surface inshore from the pinnacle, so it is not recommended that larger vessels motor through this area, especially at low tide.



Fish Rock pictured

Bluestripe Butterflyfish • *kikakapu* {Endemic}

## ⓘ Important Information

**Boat Traffic** – Commercial dive boats usually do this as a second dive.

**Weather Factor** – All south-facing sites are affected by south swell, more often in the summer months.

# Pu'u Pehe/First Cathedral 1 & 2

{ SOUTHEAST LANAI }

## ➊ Description of Bearings

### First Cathedral 1

Latitude (GPS) – 20.43.947 N

Longitude (GPS) – 156.53.214 W

Mooring depth – 42 feet

Ball depth – 10 feet

Mooring type – single pin

### First Cathedral 2

Latitude (GPS) – 20.43.952 N

Longitude (GPS) – 156.53.188 W

Mooring depth – 34 feet

Ball depth – 10 feet

Mooring type – single pin

## ➋ Getting Here/Finding Mooring

1st Cathedral is located on the southern coast of Lanai'i, just seaward and slightly east of Pu'u Pehe. There are two moorings, both approximately 100 feet south of where the top of the underwater cavern breaks the surface.

## ➌ What's Below

These moorings mark the location of a very large underwater cavern about 100 feet long, with lava tubes, pinnacles and ridges. The cavern is found directly inshore after crossing a 55-foot deep trench. Depth ranges from 20 to 65 feet around the cavern, increasing to over 100 feet moving seaward. Holes eroded in the ceiling of this lava tube allow light to stream in, lending enough light to see and creating many entry and exit points. Inhabiting this impressive formation during the day are soldierfish and nudibranchs as well as an occasional sponge crab. Outside the cavern is extensive, healthy coral reef where a resident school of raccoon butterflyfish roams. Occasionally a whitetip reef shark is seen and dolphins pass by this spot frequently.

## ➍ Important Information

**Boat Traffic** – This is a heavily visited dive site.

**Weather Factor** – All south-facing sites are affected by south swell, more often in the summer months.



First Cathedral 1, shot from First Cathedral 2.



Divers inside First Cathedral



# Knob Hill

{ SOUTH LANA'I }

## ➊ Description of Bearings

### Knob Hill

Latitude (GPS) – 20.44.015 N  
 Longitude (GPS) – 156.54.452 W  
 Mooring depth – 51 feet  
 Ball depth – 18 feet  
 Mooring type – single pin

## ➋ Getting Here/Finding Mooring

The mooring buoy is located on the south shore of Lana'i, approximately 200 yards offshore and slightly east of Hulopo'e Bay's eastern yellow marker. As one drives east past Hulopo'e Bay, the bottom is consistent reef before reaching a large, obvious sand channel. The mooring is along the east edge of this sand channel.

## ➌ What's Below

Knob Hill is named for its very distinctive rock formation, which looks like a 15-foot doorknob on top of a ridge, in 20 feet of water. Approximately 100 feet east of the knob, in 50 feet of water is a large field of uncommon leather coral. Beyond that is a rubbly area that is a favorite home for octopus, and there are several archways and swim throughs for divers to explore. Black fin barracuda (a smaller species) are often seen here, as well as large congregations of pyramid butterflyfish.

## ➍ Important Information

**Boat Traffic** – Not significant.

**Weather Factor** – All south-facing sites are affected by south swell, more often in the summer months.



Hawaiian Dascyllus/Hawaiian Domino Damselfish • 'alo'ilo'i {Endemic}

## ➊ Description of Bearings

### Second Cathedral 1

Latitude (GPS) – 20.43.977 N  
 Longitude (GPS) – 156.55.299 W  
 Mooring depth – 30 feet  
 Ball depth – 15 feet  
 Mooring type – single pin

### Second Cathedral 2

Latitude (GPS) – 20.44.003 N  
 Longitude (GPS) – 156.55.300 W  
 Mooring depth – 40 feet  
 Ball depth – 15 feet  
 Mooring type – single pin

## ➋ Getting Here/Finding Mooring

These mooring buoys are on the southern coast of Lana'i, approximately 1/2 mile west of Knob Hill mooring. Along the coastline here is a large rocky outcropping about the size of a house. On the southeast side of this outcropping is a submerged ridge that runs perpendicular to shore and to which the two moorings are anchored 200 feet apart. One mooring is closer to shore in 30 feet of water and the other is at 40 feet.

## ➌ What's Below

This is the largest underwater cavern on Lana'i. It is marked by these two moorings. They are on top of a coral-covered ridge that runs perpendicular to shore, with entries to the cavern both on the west, inshore and east sides of the ridge. Depth inside the cavern ranges from 15 to 55 feet. Outside the cavern the bottom drops to over 100 feet. Inside the cavern are several species of rare corals including a rare type of black coral growing from the ceiling. One tree in particular has been growing here as long as

anyone can remember, so please use caution when diving around it. Nocturnal animals such as soldierfish, morays and sponge crabs are inside the cavern during the day.

## ➍ Important Information

**Boat Traffic** – This is a heavily visited dive site.

**Weather Factor** – All south-facing sites are affected by south swell, more often in the summer months.



©Ananda Stone



Bluestripe Snapper • ta'ape

# Manu'ohule/Tunnel of Love/Wash Rock

{ SOUTH LANA'I }

## 📍 Description of Bearings

### Manu'ohule/Tunnel of Love/Wash Rock

Latitude (GPS) – 20.43.994 N

Longitude (GPS) – 156.55.656 W

Mooring depth – 30 feet

Ball depth – 14 feet

Mooring type – single pin



©Ananda Stone

## 📍 Getting Here/Finding Mooring

This buoy is located on the southern coast of Lana'i, at a wash rock that just barely breaks the surface if there is swell, about 0.5 mile west of Second Cathedral or about 1.5 miles west of Pu'u Pehe. The mooring is on a separate submerged pinnacle the same distance from shore and 75 yards east of the wash rock.

## 💡 What's Below

This is a large, interesting area comprised of a main pinnacle, which sometimes breaks the surface, healthy coral reef, several small lava tubes and a ridge east of the pinnacle that runs perpendicular to shore. Depth range is 0 to 70 feet. Because much of the pinnacle and top of the ridge are so close to the surface, the coral growth up shallow is lush and healthy. Schools of pyramid butterflyfish and damselfish hover around the pinnacle. The lava tubes are home to crabs and other crustaceans, and sometimes moray eels. Pipefish are one of the special, rare animals that can be seen in cracks.

Ornate Butterflyfish • *kikakapu*

## ℹ️ Important Information

Boat Traffic – Not significant.

Weather Factor – All south-facing sites are affected by south swell, more often in the summer months.

# No-Name Paradise/White Rock

{ SOUTH LANA'I }

## 📍 Description of Bearings

### No-Name Paradise/White Rock

Latitude (GPS) – 20.44.034 N

Longitude (GPS) – 156.56.151 W

Mooring depth – 31 feet

Ball depth – 14 feet

Mooring type – single pin



©Ananda Stone

## 📍 Getting Here/Finding Mooring

The mooring is located on the southern coast of Lana'i, about 2 miles west of Pu'u Pehe, and attached to an underwater lava pinnacle.

## 💡 What's Below

This area consists of a large pinnacle ranging in depth from 15-65 feet, as well as the cove area inshore of the mooring, and a lava ridge to the east of the mooring. Wire corals protrude from the wall of the eastern ridge, and the depth can reach 100 feet at the outermost point. The main pinnacle has a swim through, lava tube & a large archway, which are home to nudibranchs and soldierfish, as well as nesting Hawaiian sergeants. The rubbly reef areas inside the cove are perfect nurseries for juvenile wrasses, such as the dragon wrasse and yellowtail coris.



Bandit Angelfish {Endemic}

## ℹ️ Important Information

Boat Traffic – Minimal.

Weather Factor – All south-facing sites are affected by south swell, more often in the summer months.

# Secret Cove/Menpachi Caves

{ SOUTH LANA'I }

## 📍 Description of Bearings

### Secret Cove/Menpachi Caves

Latitude (GPS) – 20.44.037 N  
 Longitude (GPS) – 156.56.368 W  
 Mooring depth – 20 feet  
 Ball depth – 8 feet  
 Mooring type – single pin



©Ananda Stone

## 🌐 Getting Here/Finding Mooring

The mooring is located on the southern coast of Lana'i on a ridge that runs perpendicular to the shore.

## 🐠 What's Below

This area consists of many large archways, as well as a ridge that runs perpendicular to shore, which houses a narrow, 120-foot lava tube. The lava tube runs from a depth of 35 feet to 55 feet, and is packed with soldierfish. The shallow archway areas often have Hawaiian sergeants nesting here, and many nudibranchs along the ceilings and walls. Many smaller caverns and swim-throughs create habitat for unusual invertebrates. At the outermost end of this ridge, the Monolith pinnacle can be seen in the distance.

Green Sea Turtle • *honu*

## ℹ️ Important Information

Boat Traffic – Minimal.

Weather Factor – All south-facing sites are affected by south swell, more often in the summer months.

# Monolith

{ SOUTH LANA'I }

## 📍 Description of Bearings

### Monolith

Latitude (GPS) – 20.43.969 N  
 Longitude (GPS) – 156.56.423 W  
 Mooring depth – 43 feet  
 Ball depth – 12 feet  
 Mooring type – single pin

## 🌐 Getting Here/Finding Mooring

Monolith can be found directly seaward of Menpachi Caves mooring site, on the south coast of Lana'i.



©Ikaika Ross

Undulated Moray • *puhi lau milo*

## 🐠 What's Below

Diving can be done around a massive rock that is surrounded on three sides by sand and on the seaward side by lava and coral reef. Depth ranges from 40 feet on the top of the rock to 100 feet at the base. In the sand a short distance from the base in 130 feet of water is a colony of garden eels. Wire corals grow on the shaded sides of the rock and cushion stars feed on sponge growth on the walls. The top of the pinnacle is crowded with large antler corals and a yellowmargin moray can often be seen resting here during the day.

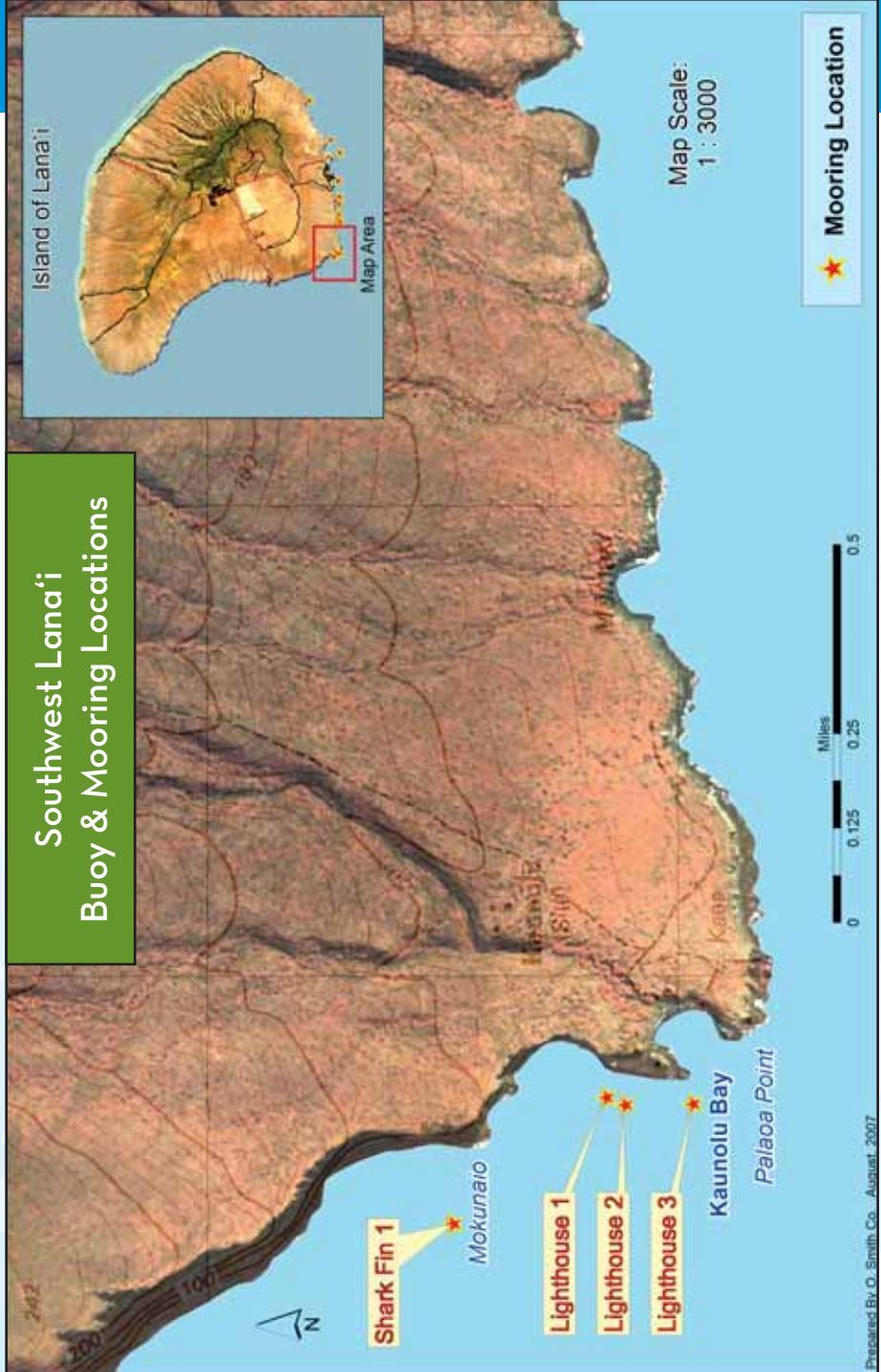
## ℹ️ Important Information

Boat Traffic – Not significant.

Weather Factor – All south-facing sites are affected by south swell, more often in the summer months.

# Kaneapua/Lighthouse/Lighthouse 1

{ SOUTHWEST LANA'I }



## ➊ Description of Bearings

### Kaneapua/Lighthouse/Lighthouse 1

Latitude (GPS) – 20.44.066 N

Longitude (GPS) – 156.57.920 W

Mooring depth – 50 feet

Ball depth – 17 feet

Mooring type – single pin

## ➋ Getting Here/Finding Mooring

The mooring buoy is located on the southwest coast of Lanai just northwest of Palaoa Point and Kaneapua Rock. It is approximately 175 feet from shore and can be found by lining up the lighthouse in the obvious notch in the shoreline. A shallower mooring in 30 feet of water is about 100 yards inshore and used mainly by snorkel boats.

## ➌ What's Below

This area slopes gradually seaward from the mooring to the sand at 115 feet where garden eels feed in the sometimes strong current. Ascending back upslope boulders cover the bottom with several large antler coral colonies and their resident damselfish. Eventually the lava coastline is reached in about 30 feet of water. A small wall with ledges and a few caves follows this coastline to the southeast of the mooring. One of the caves is known by divers as Volkswagen cave for its size.

## ➍ Important Information

**Boat Traffic** – This is a popular snorkel, dive and fishing location so one can expect company in the morning or early afternoon.

**Weather Factor** – West swells (which are uncommon) make diving Lighthouse very dangerous.



©Steve Juarez

Longnose Butterflyfish • *lauwiliwili nukunuku 'oi'oi*

# Kaneapua/Lighthouse/Light House 2 & 3

{ SOUTHWEST LANA'I }

## ● Description of Bearings

### Kaneapua/Lighthouse/Light House 2

Latitude (GPS) – 20.44.057 N

Longitude (GPS) – 156 57.908 W

Mooring depth – 58 feet

Ball depth – 15 feet

Mooring type - single pin

### Kaneapua/Lighthouse/Light House 3

Latitude (GPS) – 20.44.035 N

Longitude (GPS) – 156 57.996 W

Mooring depth - 50 feet

Ball depth - 10 feet

Mooring type - single pin

Fourspot Butterflyfish • *lauhau*

## ● Getting Here/Finding Mooring

The mooring buoy is located on the southwest coast of Lana'i. Lighthouse 3 is the first mooring when traveling southwest past the lighthouse and wash rock outcropping. It is found close to the wash section of the outcropping. Only smaller boats should use this mooring because of its closeness to the rocks.

## ● What's Below

This mooring makes a good snorkel site. Below the mooring are mostly boulders and sand. It is relatively flat, while the southeastern wall is a short swim away. Pennant butterflyfish and pyramid butterflyfish pick plankton along the wall. The wash area also has an archway.

## ● Important Information

**Boat Traffic** – This is a popular snorkel, dive and fishing location so one can expect company in the morning or early afternoon.

**Weather Factor** – West swells (which are uncommon) make diving Lighthouse very dangerous.

# Mokunaio/Shark Fin/Shark Fin 1

{ SOUTHWEST LANA'I }

## ● Description of Bearings

### Mokunaio/Shark Fin/Shark Fin 1

Latitude (GPS) – 20.44.258 N

Longitude (GPS) – 156.58.058 W

Mooring depth – 60 feet

Ball depth – 16 feet

Mooring type – single pin

## ● Getting Here/Finding Mooring

The mooring buoy is located on the southwest coast of Lana'i. A rock pinnacle breaking the surface just northwest of Palaoa Point marks the location of the dive area, with the mooring buoy located approximately 125 feet northwest of the washrock in about 60 feet of water.

## ● What's Below

Shark Fin is named for the tip of a small wall that just breaks the surface and resembles the tip of a shark's fin. It is separated from the mooring by a gradually sloping bouldery area. The wall, which is on the west side of the rock, drops to about 80 feet and nudibranchs and orange cup corals live on its shaded face. At the offshore end of the rock, current is often strong and aggregations of pyramid and pennant butterflyfish and black triggerfish feed in the current eddies close to the rock. On the inshore end of the rock is a small archway.

## ● Important Information

**Boat Traffic** – This is a popular snorkel, dive and fishing location so one can expect company in the morning or early afternoon.

**Weather Factor** – West swells (which are uncommon) make diving Shark Fin very dangerous.



©Ananda Stone

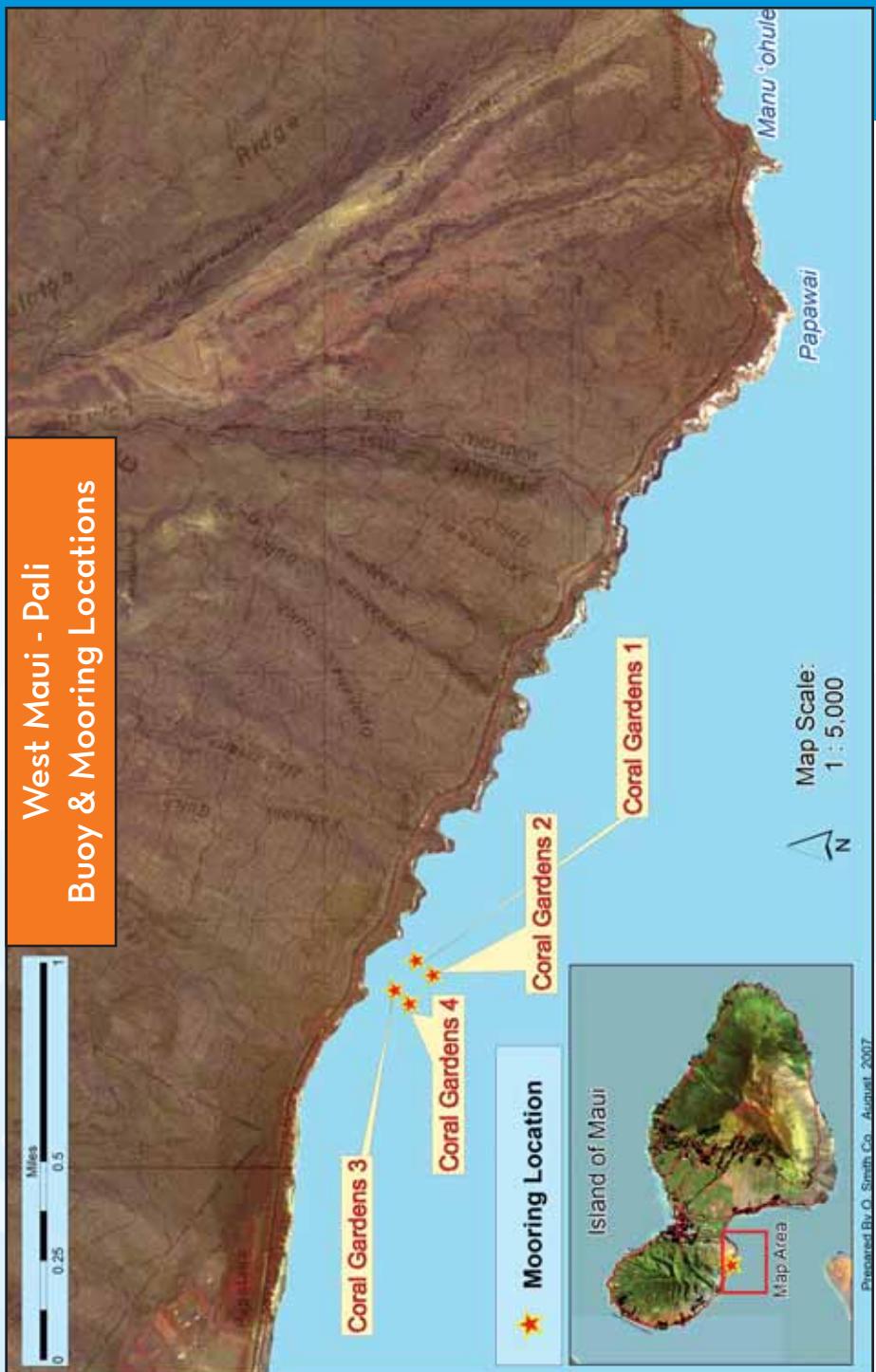


©Ed Robinson

Pyramid Butterflyfish

# Coral Gardens/Coral Gardens 1

{WEST MAUI - PALI}



## ⌚ Description of Bearings

### Coral Gardens/Coral Gardens 1

Latitude (GPS) – 20.46.374 N

Longitude GPS) – 156.33.265 W

Mooring depth – 30 feet

Ball depth – 8 feet

Mooring type - manta

## 🌐 Getting Here/Finding Mooring

Around McGregor Point from Ma'alaea Bay and heading along the Pali toward Lahaina, past the tunnel and just before the Pali highway slopes down to sea level, a slight point jutting out creates a small cove to the left of the point. The first mooring is directly in front of the point, about 100' out at 30' of depth. The mooring site is approximately 5 miles southeast of Ma'alaea Boat Harbor, past the Pali and before Ukumehame Park.

## 🐠 What's Below

When conditions are right, this is a very appropriately named snorkel/dive site. There is a good variety of marine life and coral species, with occasional turtles. The reef has lots of sand channels and mini coral canyons. It is an easy snorkel as most of the inside area is less than 25' deep. For diving, just follow the reef out to deeper waters.

## ❶ Important Information

**Boat Traffic** - When the wind is blowing so hard that there are white caps, every commercial tour boat out of Ma'alaea will be at Coral Gardens. If it's a rather nice light wind day, you may have the Gardens all to yourself until afternoon when the commercial boats will be arriving for their afternoon trips.

**Weather Factor** - This is the best place to be when the trades are pushing 30; you

just have to fight the crowd. Don't bother if there's a south swell. The area will also catch some westerlies.



Day Octopus • he'e

# Coral Gardens 2, 3 & 4

{WEST MAUI - PALI}

## Description of Bearings

### Coral Gardens 2

Latitude (GPS) – 20.47.288 N  
 Longitude GPS) – 156.33.670 W  
 Mooring depth – 25 feet  
 Ball depth – 10 feet  
 Mooring type – manta

### Coral Gardens 3

Latitude (GPS) – 20.47.335 N  
 Longitude GPS) – 156.33.705 W  
 Mooring depth – 12 feet  
 Ball depth – 10 feet

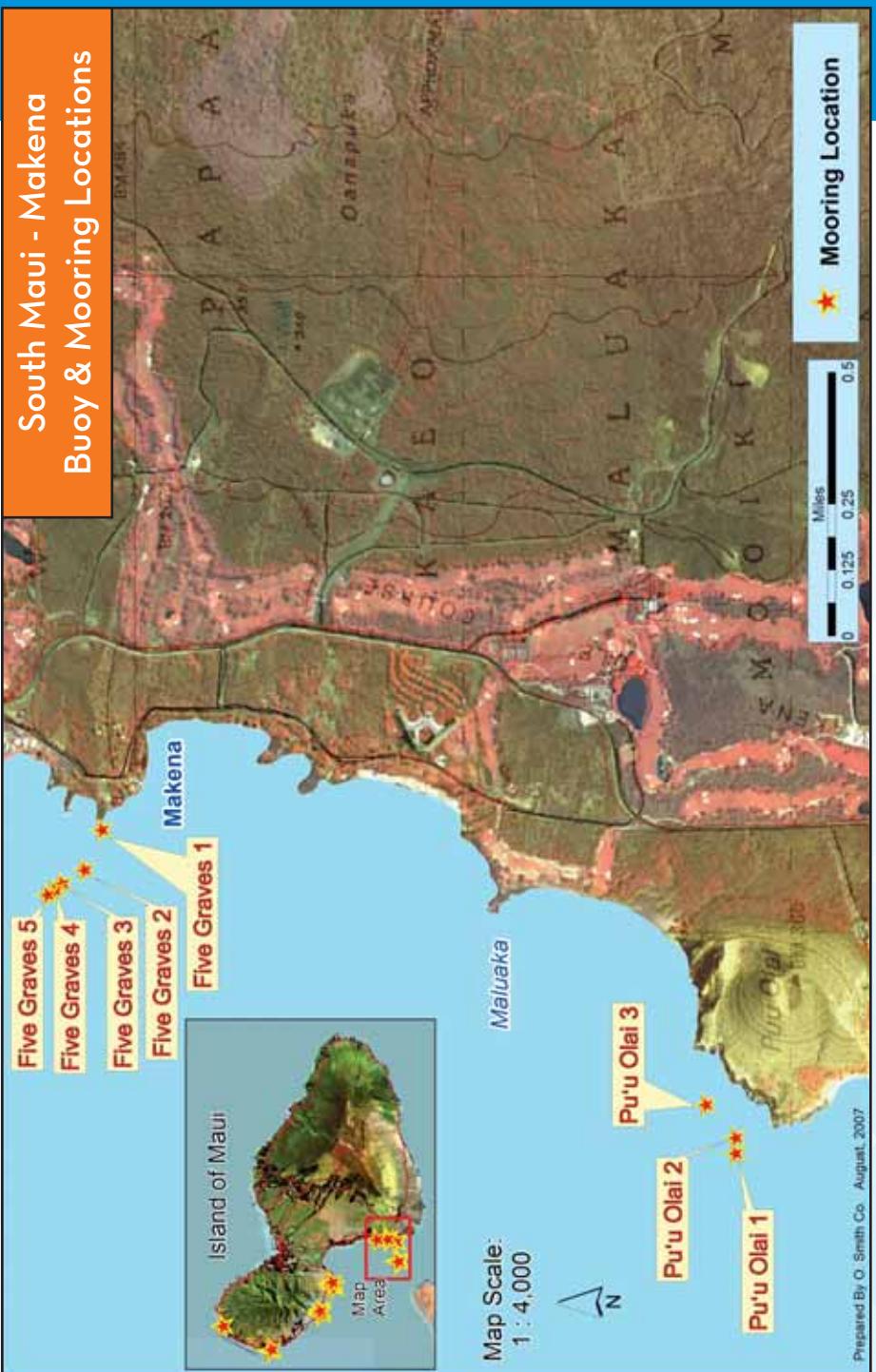
### Coral Gardens 4

Latitude (GPS) – 20.47.295 N  
 Longitude (GPS) – 156.33.759 W  
 Mooring depth – 29 feet  
 Ball depth - 17 feet  
 Mooring type – manta



Trumpetfish • *nunu* with Teardrop Butterflyfish • *lauhau*

## South Maui - Makena Buoy & Mooring Locations



# Pu'u ola'i/Red Hill/Pu'u ola'i 1-3

{SOUTH MAUI - MAKENA}

## ⌚ Description of Bearings

### Pu'u ola'i 1

Latitude (GPS) – 20.38.281 N  
 Longitude (GPS) – 156.27.226 W  
 Mooring depth – 42 feet  
 Ball depth – 12 feet  
 Mooring type – single pin

### Pu'u ola'i 2

Latitude (GPS) – 20.38.424 N  
 Longitude (GPS) – 156.27.059 W  
 Mooring depth – 40 feet  
 Ball depth – 15 feet  
 Mooring type – double manta

### Pu'u ola'i 3

Latitude (GPS) – 20.38.409 N  
 Longitude (GPS) – 156.27.052 W  
 Mooring depth – missing  
 Ball depth – 10 feet  
 Mooring type – manta

## 🌐 Getting Here/Finding Mooring

Follow the coastline south from Makena Landing past Maluaka Point. On the north side of the cinder cone is a small cove next to the lava cliff.

## ⌚ What's Below

Dark sand from the adjacent cinder cone, lava boulders and coral reef make up the bottom in this area. Green sea turtles are fairly common here and they appear comfortable with snorkelers. This is a great nursery area for juvenile reef fish.

## ⓘ Important Information

**Boat Traffic** - Commercial snorkel and dive boats usually visit this site as a second spot.  
**Weather Factor** - Susceptible to currents, typically calm in the morning, and becomes rough and choppy in the afternoon.



Hawaiian Cleaner Wrasse {Endemic}

# Nahuna Point/Turtle Town/Five Graves 1-5

{SOUTH MAUI - MAKENA}

## ⌚ Description of Bearings

### Five Graves 1

Latitude (GPS) – 20.39.320 N  
 Longitude (GPS) – 156.26.640 W  
 Mooring depth – 38 feet  
 Ball depth – 10 feet  
 Mooring type – single pin

### Five Graves 2

Latitude (GPS) – 20.39.350 N  
 Longitude (GPS) – 156.26.710 W  
 Mooring depth – 40 feet  
 Ball depth – 10 feet  
 Mooring type – single pin

### Five Graves 3

Latitude (GPS) – 20.39.387 N  
 Longitude (GPS) – 156.26.733 W  
 Mooring depth – 40 feet  
 Ball depth – 10 feet  
 Mooring type – single pin

### Five Graves 4

Latitude (GPS) – 20.39.399 N  
 Longitude (GPS) – 156.26.745 W  
 Mooring depth – 39 feet  
 Ball depth – 10 feet  
 Mooring type – single pin

### Five Graves 5

Latitude (GPS) – 20.39.412 N  
 Longitude (GPS) – 156.26.753 W  
 Mooring depth – 38 feet  
 Ball depth – 12 feet  
 Mooring type – single pin

## 🌐 Getting Here/Finding Mooring

Head south from Makena Landing and follow the coastline towards the cinder cone, Pu'u ola'i. On the north side of the cinder cone is a small cove with a lava cliff above it.

## ⌚ What's Below

The area where most diving and snorkeling takes place is book-ended by two lava ridges that run perpendicular to shore, between which are numerous lava rocks that provide shelter for reef fish and green sea turtles. Closer to shore where the ridges meet the coast are several arches and overhangs with colorful cup corals and sponge growth. Continuing into Makena Landing are a couple small caves cut into the lava flow that are frequently occupied by whitetip reef sharks. Depth ranges from 50 feet at the seaward ends of the ridges to 20 feet inshore. Green sea turtles are especially calm around snorkelers here since they are visited daily, while divers often find frogfish, pipefish and cleaner shrimp.

## ⓘ Important Information

**Boat Traffic** - This is an extremely popular second stop for many snorkel boats that come from Ma'alaea harbor. In addition, shore divers come out from Makena Landing daily so keep watch for bubbles.

**Weather Factor** - Conditions are typically calm in the morning and choppy to rough by noon. A south or west swell can reduce visibility.



Five Graves 5

© Pauline Flene

# Wailea Point/ Wailea Point 1 & 2

{SOUTH MAUI - WAILEA}



## >Description of Bearings

### Wailea Point 1

Latitude (GPS) – 20.40.846 N  
 Longitude (GPS) – 156.26.833 W  
 Mooring depth – 27 feet  
 Ball depth – 10 feet  
 Mooring type – double pin



### Wailea Point 2

Latitude (GPS) – 20.40.812 N  
 Longitude (GPS) – 156.26.790 W  
 Mooring depth – 32 feet  
 Ball depth – 10 feet  
 Mooring type – double pin

## Getting Here/Finding Mooring

Off the northwesterly end of Wailea Point in Wailea.

## What's Below

This is an easy site to navigate because the mooring is located on the edge of the lava flow that forms Wailea Point. Following the edge of the flow in one direction or the other and then turning around will lead you right back to the mooring. Lava rock ridges and formations at the mooring support a good variety of eels and other fish including threadfin butterflyfish and rarely seen lagoon triggerfish. Coral coverage is good at the mooring and there are many large antler corals northwest of the mooring. Turtles can also be seen here.



## Important Information

**Water Quality –** Visibility is usually good, but during and after periods of west and south swell, visibility can be so low that diving here is not practical.





## Ka'anapali/Marriott 1-3

{NORTHWEST MAUI - KA'ANAPALI}

### ⌚ Description of Bearings

#### Marriott 1

Latitude (GPS) – 20.54.861 N  
Longitude (GPS) – 156.41.850 W  
Mooring depth – 32 feet  
Ball depth – 15 feet  
Mooring type – single manta

#### Marriott 2

Latitude (GPS) – 20.54.652 N  
Longitude (GPS) – 156.41.729 W  
Mooring depth – 38 feet  
Ball depth – 15 feet  
Mooring type – single manta

#### Marriott 3

Latitude (GPS) – 20.54.608 N  
Longitude (GPS) – 156.41.682 W  
Mooring depth – mooring missing\*  
Ball depth – mooring missing\*  
Mooring type – manta

### ⌚ Getting Here/Finding Mooring

These moorings are along the southern coast of Ka'anapali, near a shoreline surf break in front of the Marriott hotel. Easily accessed from Mala boat ramp. Once leaving the ramp the hotels are visible to the right.

### ⌚ What's Below

This area has some very nice shallow coral reef areas that are great for snorkeling. Dive operators like to visit this site as an alternative spot during south swell conditions. Yellow tangs, pufferfish, triggerfish, schools of whitetail unicorn fish, and cornetfish are commonly seen. This area has a nice variety of marine life and a great big area to explore.



# Acknowledgements



Since 1991, Malama Kai Foundation has led the effort to establish a statewide Day-Use Mooring Buoy system to protect Hawaii's precious coral reefs from anchor damage. This has been made possible by the many contributions of time, resources and expertise from volunteers statewide, as well as the financial and institutional support of government agencies, charitable foundations, individuals and businesses. Malama Kai Foundation has taken the lead role in helping the State secure necessary permits for the day-use mooring buoys, installing moorings on all islands, purchasing supplies needed for repairs, and training volunteers on proper procedures for mooring buoy installation.

This guidebook for the Day-Use Mooring Buoy system in Maui County waters was produced by the Malama Kai Foundation under a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that was made possible by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Islands Coastal Program. Malama Kai Foundation especially acknowledges the Maui Reef Fund. The production of this guidebook would not have been possible without the invaluable contributions of the Maui Reef Fund and its members. Mahalo for collecting submissions for new day-use mooring sites in Maui County, having trained installers who properly install, repair, and maintain legally permitted moorings, and for the extensive contribution of time and money to make the Maui County public day-use moorings available to the community.

In addition, Malama Kai Foundation wishes to extend a Mahalo to the two state agencies most involved in this work statewide:

Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR)

Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR)

Malama Kai Foundation also wishes to thank the many volunteers who have helped with photos, site descriptions, and other input for the Maui County Day-Use Mooring Guidebook including:  
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**Site descriptions provided by:** Erik Stein (Extended Horizons), Ananda Stone (Maui Reef Fund), Mike Jones (Trilogy Excursions), Pauline Fiene (Mike Severns Diving), Terry Hunt (American Reef), and Victoria Martocci (Extended Horizons).

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# How You Can Help

The Hawaii Day-Use Mooring Buoy system is made possible by contributions from people like you! Your donations of time, treasure and talent are needed to install and maintain the day-use mooring buoys in Hawaii. The maintenance and expansion of Hawaii's public Day-Use Mooring Buoy system depends on private donations and volunteer assistance.

The Malama Kai Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to conserve Hawaii's coastal and marine resources through community action, education, and outreach. The Day-Use Mooring Buoy system has been a primary focus of the Malama Kai Foundation since it was founded in 1991. Malama Kai Foundation is responsible for coordinating the installation and maintenance of the day-use mooring buoys statewide (except Molokini).

Donations can be made to Malama Kai Foundation to support the Day-Use Mooring Buoy system statewide, by island, or by buoy through the Adopt-a-Buoy Program!

## The Adopt-a-Buoy Program is one way you can help!

**Butterfly Fish Class:** A \$250 contribution will pay for the mooring materials of one Day-Use Mooring. You will receive a pewter pin and a certificate of adoption.

**Triggerfish Class:** A \$500 contribution will pay for the mooring materials and the installation of one Day-Use Mooring Buoy. You will receive a pewter pin and a certificate of adoption.

**Sea Turtle Class:** A \$750 contribution will pay for the materials and installation of one Day-Use Mooring Buoy, as well as maintenance for five years. You will receive a pewter pin and a certificate of adoption.

*Contributions of any amount are gratefully appreciated whether it's \$10 or \$10,000 or more.*

Please make checks payable to Malama Kai Foundation and note if the donation is for use statewide, or for a specific buoy location or a specific island and send it to the following address:

**Malama Kai Foundation:** P.O. Box 6882 • Kamuela, HI 96743

Your contribution to Malama Kai Foundation is tax deductible (IRS Tax ID #99-0285490) to the extent allowable by law.

The public Day-Use Mooring Buoy system would not exist without the help of dedicated individuals and businesses. Numerous dive shops around the state collaborate with Malama Kai to install, monitor and maintain the buoys. Please show your support for the public Day-Use Mooring Buoy program by patronizing these dedicated businesses.

The Maui Reef Fund, administered by the Hawaii Wildlife Fund, works in a partnership with the Malama Kai Foundation on the Maui County public Day-Use Mooring Buoy program. A database for Maui County Day-Use moorings can be accessed through Hawaii Wildlife Fund's website at [www.wildhawaii.org](http://www.wildhawaii.org). For additional information on Malama Kai Foundation, its programs, and all Day-Use Moorings statewide go to [www.malama-kai.org](http://www.malama-kai.org).

Please note that at the time of printing there are additional Day-Use Maui mooring sites that have been identified and included in a statewide DLNR Day-Use Mooring permit application with the US Army Corps of Engineers. Please check the Malama Kai Foundation website at [www.malama-kai.org](http://www.malama-kai.org) for the latest information on additional Day-Use Moorings available for use statewide.

**Mahalo!**

# MAHALO...



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*...for doing your part to help limit the  
threat of damage to our coral reefs!*