

## The Place Names of Lānaʻi

Lānaʻi is divided into two districts: Kona (Leeward) and Koʻolau (Windward). In the 1400s, the Hawaiians divided the island into 13 land divisions — called ahupuaʻa — that extended from ocean and fishery resources to the mountains. Several of these ahupuaʻa have traditions associated with how they came to be named. One tradition tells us that when the aliʻi (chiefs) initiated the ahupuaʻa subdivisions, runners were selected to run from a place on the shore to an upland area. Where one runner crossed the path ahead of an opponent, the opponent's ahupuaʻa boundary ended. That is why some of the boundaries have longer or shorter sections.

The 13 ahupuaʻa of Lānaʻi are:

- Kaʻā – The rocky or burned district.
- Paomaʻi – Sick Pao. Pao was the runner who established this ahupuaʻa. After his run on Lānaʻi, he paddled by canoe to Maui, where he claimed a hill in the Lahaina district. Exhausted, he fell down ill, and the land area was called Paomaʻi.
- Mahana – Warm, hot.
- Maunalei – Mountain garland.
- Kalulu – The shelter.
- Kaunolū – (no meaning given).
- Pālāwai – Fresh water moss.
- Paʻawili – Strike and twist (as in a blowing wind).
- Kaʻōhai – The native ʻohai plant.
- Kamaʻo – the native maʻo plant.
- Keālia Aupuni – The government salt beds.
- Keālia Kapu – The restricted salt beds.
- Kamoku – The land area or cut off district.

