

# KOHALA SIGHTS

complete confidence that most of these roads are utterly wretched and lead to absolute squat. The entire coastline in this area is rocky and mostly unprotected. There are *no* beaches. It's pretty but not beautiful, and the land is harsh and unforgiving. (The real beauty of this area is underwater, with lots of extensive coral formations and ultra-clean water.) The only people who bother to make their way to the coast along this stretch are shoreline fishermen or hopeful whale watchers. So don't bother unless you have *way* too much time on your hands. The only exception is **Kaiholena Cove** between the 11 and 12 mile markers. The snorkeling is outstanding and fairly easy to access. (See **BEACHES** for more.)

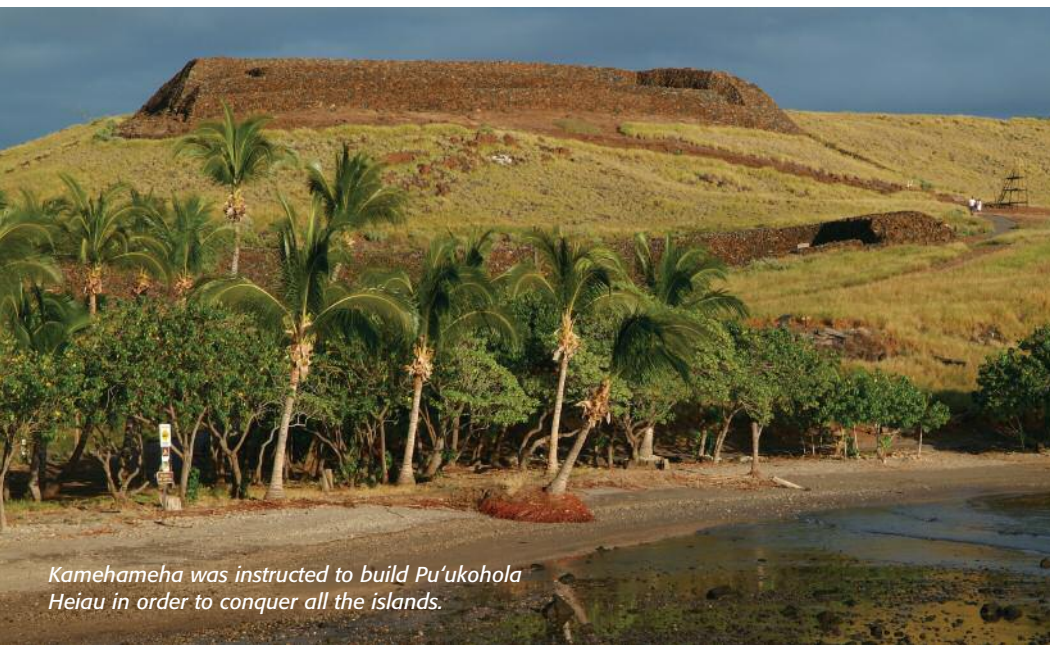
Look to the shoreline from this area. Somewhere around here you'll usually find a place where to the left, the ocean looks calm and inviting, whereas to the right it looks choppy and frothing, and the line of demarcation is pretty defined. This is a terrifying place (if you're a pilot). It's the transition zone from waters that are wind-pro-

tected to waters that are whipped up from nukin' gales that slither around the tip of North Kohala. The turbulence in this area would make the toughest **ULTIMATE FIGHTER** scream like a little girl if he were flying here. (I've tried taking aerial photos of Kaiholena Cove, but that pesky emotion called *fear of death* keeps turning me away.) So if you see any low flying aircraft around here—salute 'em.

Like an old commercial says, sometimes you feel like a nut. If so, just over ½ mile past the 5 mile marker is a road that leads to the **Hamakua Macadamia Nut Co.** (882–1690). They have all things mac nut. Super friendly folks, they'll give you a quickie tour of the processing facilities behind the glass.

## KAWAIHAE

The tiny port town of Kawaihae has a few places to eat and shop and is the launching area for some fishing and SCUBA operations. Otherwise, there's not much to see. There's an ice cream place on the back side of Kawaihae Center that



Kamehameha was instructed to build Pu'ukohola Heiau in order to conquer all the islands.

