



At Broken Road near South Point, crystal clear waters are the norm.

The southern end of the island from Honaunau (near the 104 mile marker on Highway 11) to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is the least developed part of the Big Island. Long stretches of lava fields on the western side of Mauna Loa's flank give way to green as you round the southern part of the island, where rain is allowed to fall with less interference from Mauna Loa volcano. Along the way you'll pass roads leading to, among other things, a (usually) deserted black sand beach, a lightly inhabited 11,000+ acre housing subdivision and the southernmost place in the United States. Since most people drive this stretch on their way to the volcano from Kailua-Kona or Kohala, we'll describe it from that direction.

These districts, called **South Kona** and **Ka'u**, are littered with the financial



corpses of big businessmen with big plans and big wallets who took a big bath. Most didn't have a clue how business in Hawai'i works and lost their 'okoles as a result. Three examples, all mentioned in detail later, are: **HOVE**—*If you build it, they won't come.*

Hawaiian Riviera—*He who underestimates his opponents will ultimately be crushed by them.*

SeaMountain—*How to turn \$30 million in cash into \$3 million in real estate.*

From Highway 11 heading south from Honaunau, you'll have several opportunities to visit beaches below the road. **Ho'okena** (a decent gray sand beach) and **Pebble Beach** (a violent 'okole kicker) are described in BEACHES. Distances between gas stations are large,

so gas up when you can. Just after Honaunau between the 104 and 103 mile marker is the best fruit stand we know of on the west side. **South Kona Fruit Stand** usually has excellent quality fruits all organically grown on the adjacent farm.

While driving along the flanks of Mauna Loa along here, consider this: Mauna Loa was built from countless thin layers of lava flows, usually less than 15 feet thick. (Flows since 1800 are shown on the map.) About 120,000 years ago, there was a plain below you where there are now steep hills. At that time, a humongous piece (that's a technical term) of the island, from roughly around the 109 mile marker to an area north of Miloli'i (20 miles to the south), broke off and slid into the ocean, creating what is now Kealakekua Bay and the steep hills south of Honaunau. The resulting tsunami (tidal

wave) was so huge that it washed completely over the 1,427-foot-high island of Kaho'olawe, continued on and washed almost completely over the 3,370-foot-high island of Lana'i, where it deposited chunks of coral over a thousand feet up the mountain. This area is, geologically speaking, still unstable. Just didn't want you to run out of things to worry about.

Usually referred to as the last remaining fishing village on the island, **Miloli'i** is just past the 89 mile marker. As a beach destination, it won't offer you much (especially on the weekends—see BEACHES for more information). From the highway, $2\frac{2}{10}$ miles into the beach access road, look off to your left, and you will see a narrow a'a lava flow. The nearby village of **Ho'opuloa** was wiped out entirely when the lava marched down the slopes of Mauna Loa in 1926. Miloli'i's residents gained notoriety when they and their

