

Beginning Hawaiian

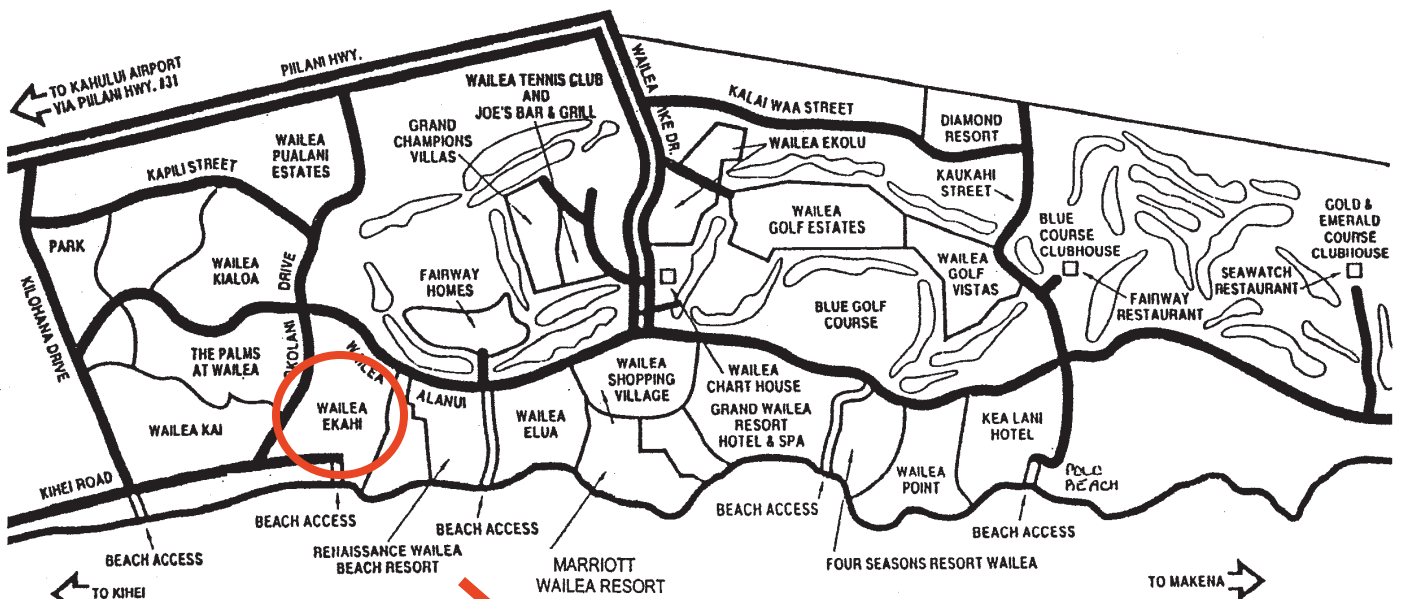
The Hawaiian language has only 12 letters, five vowels (a, e, i, o, and u) and seven consonants (h, k, l, m, n, p, and w). All constants are pronounced as in English with the exception of the w: when it follows an i or e, the w is pronounced like an English "v"; when w follows an a or begins a word, it can be pronounced either as an English "w" or "v"; after u or o, it is the same as English. Every vowel in a word is pronounced individually, unlike English.

- a sounds like "ah" in "hurrah"
- e sounds like "ay" in "pay" or "e" in "bet"
- i sounds like "ee" in "see"
- o sounds like "o" in "sole"
- u sounds like "oo" in "moon"

You may notice that some words have a diacritic mark that looks like an English apostrophe. This is an 'okina and indicates a glottal stop which is a brief pause similar to "oh-oh" in English. Vowels with a horizontal line above them indicate that syllable is stressed.

Commonly used Hawaiian words, the syllables in bold are stressed.

Aloha	Ah lo hah	Hello, goodbye, love
Akamai	Ah kah mye	Smart, clever
Hale	Hah lay	House, home
Kama'aina	Kah mah eye nah	Long-time resident
Kane	Kah nay	Man
Kokua	Koh ku ah	Help
Lu'au	Loo ow	Feast with food
Mahalo	Mah hah lo	Thank you
Makai	Mah kye	Toward the ocean
Malahini	Mah lah hee nee	Newcomer, visitor
Mauka	Mow kah	Toward the mountains
Ono	Oh no	Delicious
Pau	Pow	Finished, done
Wahine	Wah hee nay	Woman



Great walk on sandy beach

Great walk on "boardwalk" past big hotels
~ stop for coffee in morning, go for lunch
or MaiTai (cocktails) in the evening.