

PH0055905

STATE: Hawaii
COUNTY: Hawaii
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE AUG 30 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Ainapo Trail
AND/OR HISTORIC: Menzies Trail

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: E of Mauna Loa Trail leading to and along east side of Mokuaweoweo crater.			
CITY OR TOWN: Hawaii Volcanoes NP Summit of Mauna Loa volcano		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 2	
STATE: Hawaii	CODE: 15	COUNTY: Hawaii	CODE: 01

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____			

**4. AGENCY**

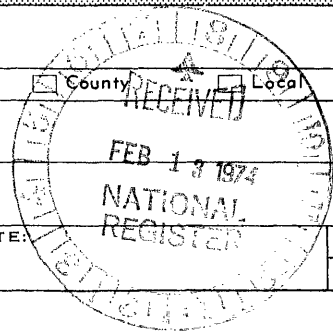
National Park Service, U.S.D.I.			
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)		STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: Hawaii Volcanoes National Park		STATE: Hawaii	CODE: 1700

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: National Park Service, U.S.D.I.			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington		STATE: D.C.	CODE: 08

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE:



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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Order of Significance: FirstRecommended Treatment: PreservationDescription:

Present. A narrow, single-file, twisting, and occasionally slightly abraded trail over fields of cooled, hard, tough lavas; some fields being rough and scoriaceous and others smooth and billowy; above 11,600-foot elevation; leading up the broad southeast flank of Mauna Loa volcano to and along the east side of Mokuaweoweo, the major summit crater. The trail along the crater's edge is above the 13,200-foot elevation. Intermittent, and in places infrequent, stacks of loose lava boulders (each stack called an ahu in the Hawaiian language) line its sides to mark the trail. Abraded spots occur only on the rare surface types subject to pockmarking by metal blows, and this has been done by iron-shod hoofs since the 1870's, when mounts began to be used.

Original. Same as above, except without the abraded spots. Bare feet and feet protected by leaf sandals or leather boots, leave no marks on the lava surfaces. Some rock stacks may have been added and others destroyed since 1870, and some cracks filled in 1913 to permit easier horse and mule passage.

Length of trail above 11,600 feet to near "Jaggar's Cave," approximately 11 miles.

Actual boundaries are 200 feet on each side of the trail, which in places may be wide. The trail, in places, consists of numerous twisting alternate routes leading across a broad sloping area of billows and hollows of comparatively smooth-surfaced pahoehoe lavas. Other parts may be a stretch of narrow path through clinker-like aa lava, jumbled massive lava blocks, or winding between irregular and odd-shaped hillocks. Areas of multiple-choice routes are usually marked by rock stacks to indicate the general direction, but such stacks may be widely spaced and visible only on the horizon, if weather permits. The stacks are usually placed so as to be visible against the skyline to travelers going upslope. Some of the trail is obvious and forms the only practical foot route ahead in the desired direction. Rock-stack markers are less frequent in obvious trail areas.

The portion of the Ainapo trail covered by this nomination is the upper (and still visible) portion of the principal Hawaiian route to the summit of Mauna Loa. That portion of the trail below 11,600-foot elevation is not included in this nomination; much of it is not visible in 1973, having been disturbed through ranching operations and vegetative

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

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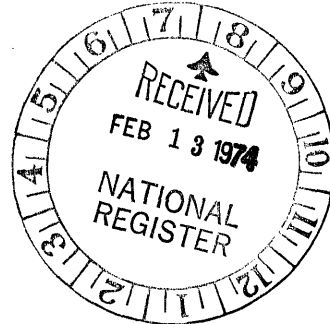
7. DESCRIPTION

changes in recent historic times. A portion of the trail included in this nomination lies outside the boundaries of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park; this portion being the stretch between the 11,600-foot elevation and the boundary of the National Park at approximately the 12,560-foot elevation.

Date of construction. Prehistoric. Improved for horses in 1913.

Cost Estimate (for level of treatment): \$1,000 initially; then \$100 annually to maintain..

Brief Description of Work: Rebuild rock cairns which mark trail for approximately 7 miles, starting at Wilkes campsite at 13,240 feet above sea level and going down upper slopes of Mauna Loa, until trail disappears at about 11,600-foot elevation. Note: Extremely remote, barren, and waterless location above 11,600-foot elevation. Transportation and support by helicopter.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal             | <input type="checkbox"/> Education                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic    | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture            | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> Military                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                             |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation           |  |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

From prehistoric times through 1916, the Ainapo trail was the customary route to the summit crater of Mauna Loa volcano. The trail was 34-miles long (almost 55 km); rose from 2,000 feet to 13,200 feet above sea level; and supplied shelter, water, and firewood to Hawaiians. Foreigners also used it afoot after 1794, and after 1870 rode horses and mules over it. Only the portion above the 11,650-foot elevation remains intact.

Prehistoric Hawaiians laid out the Ainapo foot trail to assure availability of shelter, drinking water, and firewood between their nearest permanent settlement, Kapapala village, and Mokuaweoweo, the summit crater. Kapapala village could be reached over easy-grade trails from the coastal Hawaiian settlements. Most Mauna Loa ascents by Hawaiians were made during summit eruptions, when the volcano goddess Pele was present, to honor her with chanted prayers and offerings; and perhaps at other times to honor a site she frequented.

From the records left by early foreigners, the Hawaiian Ainapo trail practices have been reconstructed. The Hawaiian style of ascent to Mokuaweoweo lay in moving upslope in easy stages to lessen fatigue and permit acclimatization to the increasingly rarefied atmosphere. The major stages were a series of overnight camps, each complete with small, warm, thatched houses and well supplied with food, drinking liquid, and firewood. In each camp, the elite were supported in the style of Hawaiian high chiefs. The lesser stages consisted of frequent rest stops, perhaps in natural rock shelters, warmed by fires as necessary.

Hawaiians utilized two key campsites on the Ainapo, one at the upper edge of the forest (Camp 2), and one further upslope within a large lava tube (Camp 3) in the barren area. Camp 2, a temporary village of thatched houses built for each royal trip to the top, was in an area of high grass with timber adjacent. Camp 2's altitude was approximately 6,500 feet above sea level, and furnished house timbers, firewood and grass for thatching and ground insulation (under sleeping mats) for the subsequent higher camps. Camp 3, in the large lava tube at about

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(continued)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Apple, Russell A., "Mountain Trails: the Ainapo and Mauna Loa," mss., National Park Service, Honolulu, July 1973.

Apple, Russell A. and Peg Apple, "Menziess and his Barometer;" "The Climb to the Sacred Summit;" "Mauna Loa's Elusive Snow;" "Menziess' Mauna Loa Safari;" "It is a Horizon of Itself;" Tales of Old Hawaii Series, Honolulu Star Bulletin, Apr. 21, 28; May 5, 19; June 2, 1973.

(continued)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	19° 29' 49"	155° 35' 41"				
NE	19° 30' 00"	155° 34' 19"				
SE	19° 25' 20"	155° 33' 38"				
SW	19° 25' 09"	155° 35' 00"				
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 533						
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES						
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE			
Hawaii	15	Hawaii	01			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE			

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Russell A. Apple, Pacific Historian		DATE: 7/18/73
BUSINESS ADDRESS: National Park Service, U.S.D.I.		
STREET AND NUMBER: Suite 512, 677 Ala Moana Blvd.		PHONE: 808/521-3027
CITY OR TOWN: Honolulu	STATE: Hawaii 96813	CODE: 15

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

Yes  
 No  
 None

*James Kido*  
 State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is  National  State  Local

*Howard H. Chapman*  
 Federal Representative Signature  
 Regional Director, Western Region

Date: 20 NOV 1973

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*A.R. Mortensen*  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 8/30/74

ATTEST:

*Charles H. King*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 8-29-74

HB  
 230050  
 251100  
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 2147280  
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS  
 227050

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(Continuation Sheet)

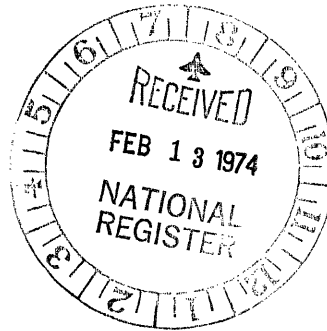
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8. SIGNIFICANCE

it was the shortest access to the top both in time and distance. Pack animals shortened by days the round-trip time over the Ainapo and eliminated the supporting cadre of human porters. It took more than 100 Hawaiians to place Menzies atop Mauna Loa in 1794.

✓  
In 1916, the U. S. Army pioneered a new trail to the summit to suit the needs of volcanologists headquartered at Kilauea volcano. In 1916, the summit of Mauna Loa, the Army-built trail, and the summit of Kilauea volcano were incorporated within Hawaii National Park, established by Congress that year. This gave the volcanologists and the public a federally controlled route to Mokuaweoweo. After 1916, for the next half century, there were two trails to the summit, but the Ainapo received diminishing usage and was not maintained. Below the barren lavas, the savannah-forest areas through which the Ainapo passed became ranching country--private land through which public passage was discouraged. The Ainapo trail now lies abandoned, unmaintained, overgrown, blocked by barbed-wire cattle fences, and almost forgotten. The 1915 Army-built trail now handles the rare traffic and is the trail shown on the newer USGS quadrangle maps. The Ainapo trail is now out of business, except for the portion above 11,600, most of it within Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.



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(Continuation Sheet)

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Apple, Russell A., Trails, from Steppingstones to Kerbstones, Bishop Museum Special Publication 53, Honolulu, 1965, pp. 32-34.

Bird, Isabella L., Six Months in the Sandwich Islands, Honolulu, 1946, pp. 218, 234, 237-246.

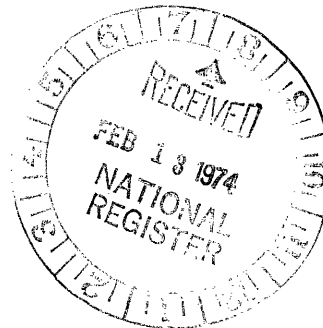
Brigham, William T., The Volcanoes of Kilauea and Mauna Loa on the Island of Hawaii, Memoirs of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, II, 4, Honolulu, 1909, passim.

Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, Report for week ending Oct. 2, 1913, mss., Bishop Museum, Honolulu.

Hitchcock, Charles H., Hawaii and its Volcanoes, Honolulu, 1911, passim.

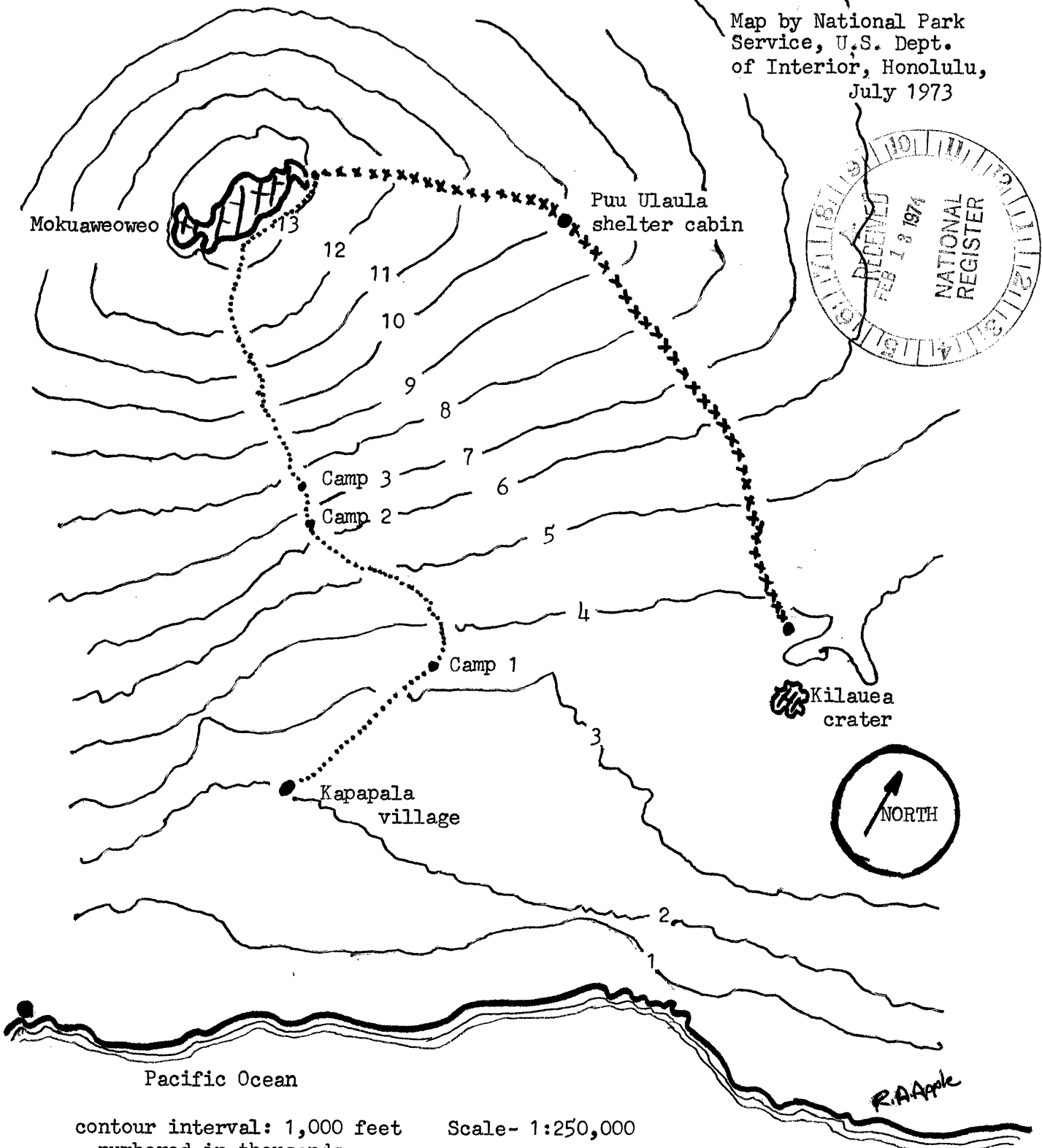
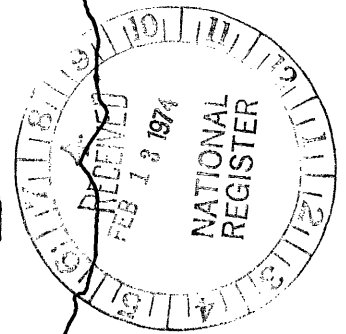
Menzies, Archibald, Hawaii Nei 128 Years Ago, W. F. Wilson, ed., Honolulu, 1920, pp. 150-199.

Wilkes, Charles, Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition, Philadelphia, 1844, IV, pp. 111-162.



AINAPO and MAUNA LOA TRAILS, Ka'u District, Island of Hawaii

Map by National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Honolulu, July 1973



contour interval: 1,000 feet numbered in thousands      Scale- 1:250,000

Legend: ..... Ainapo trail (prehistoric)  
 10 x x x x x Mauna Loa trail (1915)

