The Keauhou Holua (Toboggan) Slide (HASS-50-HA-D3-2) is the largest and best preserved slide in the State of Hawaii. This slide, extremely long (1290 feet), steep, and wide, served as the "Olympic Games" holua of the Hawaiian people.

Certain pastimes were restricted to the chiefs, the most spectacular being holua sledging. A track of rock, layered with earth and made slippery with grass, was made for tobogganing on a narrow sled. The sled or pepe consisted of two narrow and highly polished runners, from seven to 18 feet in length, and from two to three inches deep. The two runners were fastened together by a number of short pieces of woods varying in length from two to five inches, laid horizontally across the runners. The contestants grasped the sled, ran a few yards to the brow of the hill or starting place, and throwing themselves forward, fell flat on the sled, and slid rapidly down the hill. Those who rode the farthest were considered the victors. This sport was extremely dangerous and only experts participated.
THE FAMOUS ROYAL HOLUA, OR SLIDE, AT KE-AU-HOU, N. KONA, HAWAII.

This sketch presents a general view, together with measurements and details of construction of the long slide that extends far inland above the village of Ke-au-hou, over gently terraced country, to the top of the hill named Pu'u o Kapimia-ko, of a considerable elevation.

The starting-point is a narrow platform, paved level, succeeded by a slightly declivity crosswise platform 160 feet long by 30 wide, and is followed by a series of steep descents that give high speed to the holua-sleds.

Great care seems to have been exercised in the building of this huge relic of the ancient. Practically the whole slide is constructed of fairly large red-tussock, filled in with ashes of medium and small-sized logs. The butt-walls on the north and south vary in height according to the contour of the land. The width of the runway varies considerably.

In several places the floor of the holua has sunk, leaving depressions of various size, due to the collapse of the palnaha hole because of age and earthquakes.

The length of the slide, measured through the middle from the present lower end, is 3,650 feet. It may have extended about 5,000 feet further, as it is said that in ancient days the now missing lower part extended along the point north of Ke-au-hou Bay nearly to the Protestant open chapel by beautiful Hekio Bay. On completion of their slides the chiefs would have their close attendants (holua) transport them and their surf-boards by canoe, to a point about a mile offshore, and a little to the north, from where they would ride into Hekio on the great waves of the noted surf of Ke-au-hou.

Unfortunately bushes and trees have gained a foothold on the slide, and will cause great damage in a short time unless something is done to properly preserve this historic monument of old Hawaii.

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