

Also nearby, the **Hawai'i Nature Center** on your left on Hwy 320 may appeal to kids. See page 36 for more.

For the cerebral-oriented, the **Bailey House Museum** (244-3326) is the former mid-19th century home of missionary Edward Bailey. His home, now a museum, is a good place to check out artifacts from the past—such as a century-old surfboard, Hawaiian stone tools, spinning wheel, Hawaiian Bible, quilts, dresses almost two centuries old and even more surprising items, such as an opium scale and pipe. Bailey was also a painter, and his renditions of Maui in the 1800s are interesting. Entry fee is \$7, \$2 for kids. On Main Street on your way to 'Iao Valley. Closed Sunday.

Also in Wailuku are the remains of the **Haleki'i** and **Pihana heiau**. These are former luakini temples (places of human sacrifice). The view from this strategic hill is impressive. You can see all of Wailuku and Kahului. As you gaze from the top of the heiau, your views of the mountains are mixed with views of the surrounding houses, creeping close to the heiau. Instead of houses, what would the ancient priests have seen when they looked out from here? Houses...and taro. This area was called Na Wai Eha, or Four Waters, and was one of the largest taro-growing areas in the state. The streams around here provided abundant water, so it would have looked similar to rice fields but with broad-leafed taro instead of rice. Thousands of Hawaiians lived here. Instead of shingles, they had thatch. Instead of a two-car garage, they had a two-canoe shed. But this area has always been home to lots of people.

The heiau park is not well maintained by the state, which is surprising, given how few ancient relics there are on Maui. (Well, except in the state government.)

To get there, take Waiehu Beach Road to Kuhio to Hea. (See map on page 66.) You'll have to park at the bottom of the parking lot access road and walk up "due to land dispute issues," we were told.

## KAHULUI

People who live on Maui find themselves coming to Kahului all the time. What do they come for? Malls, movies, restaurants and—most important on an island where things cost a lot—*Costco*.

Kahului is where people come to take care of business. The biggest mall, **Queen Ka'ahumanu Center** on Hwy 32, is a big draw. And **Maui Marketplace** on Dairy Road is where you'll find **Borders Books** and the island's biggest sporting goods store.

Finding someplace in Kahului is easy if you know one thing: Midas Mufflers is on Wakea and Hukilike. Why in the heck are we telling you this? Because every small town has a place like this. The *thing* that everything is relative to. Call up a business in Kahului and ask where they are, and, if it's not on a main street, invariably the response will be, "*You know where Midas is? Well, you take a left...*" We don't know why; it's just the way it is.

Kahului is nearly always windy. And on those few occasions that it's not windy—it's *real breezy*. If you rent a large vehicle, like a minivan, it'll often feel like someone's outside rocking your car.

## THE VALLEY OF SUGAR

This is the reason Maui is called the Valley Isle—the large flatland separating East and West Maui. This area is dominated by only one thing—*sugar*. A single company—HC&S—is growing all that sugar you see—all 37,000 acres of it. Before people came to these islands, a thin, dryland forest existed here. The

Hawaiians quickly cut down the trees when they discovered the island, and the area became a barren desert, after which the Hawaiians had little to do with it. When western man arrived, he saw an opportunity to grow sugar in this unused region and began building ditches to bring water to this thirsty land. Today, the broad valley between the two great volcanoes is an ever-waving field of green trisected by the three highways. This is the last sugar plantation in Hawai'i and its days seemed numbered at press time.

At one time, all of the islands surrounding Maui formed a single large island. Then the ocean rose and the land sank to isolate each of the volcanoes into different islands. The valley separating East and West Maui is the last land bridge remaining, and its days are numbered, too. Given the present sinking rate, East and West Maui will be separate islands in about 15,000 years when this landbridge disappears. (Gives the realtors something to worry about, huh?)

On Honoapi'ilani Hwy (30) heading toward the west side, you'll find **Maui**

**Tropical Plantation** (244-7643) between the 2 and 3 mile markers—60 acres of assorted tropical fruits and plants. It's a classic tourist trap, and it'll cost you \$14 to ride the tram to see the gardens. (No walkers.) The place seems more geared to tour buses. The tour can be marginally interesting, but it's definitely *not* a must-see. The Moloka'i coffee company that owns a piece of it is growing coffee on the slopes above the plantation. Also, the best **zipline** in the state cuts across the land above this part of the West Maui Mountains. See ACTIVITIES on page 233.

If you drive along Hwy 311 on your way toward South Maui, you'll pass Maui's ugliest sight (except for the line at the rental car counter when you're late for your flight home). A sugar mill looking like it belongs more in the 19th century (which is when it was built) belches steam and sometimes black smoke into the air. The smoke is from the burning of bagasse, the fiber remaining after sugar

*Sugar, sugar everywhere. This tall grass requires one ton of water to make one pound of sugar.*

