



# Ko Olina Coming Of Age

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## NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE KO OLINA COMMUNITY

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By Brendan Donnelly

**T**hey called it *Ko Olina*, “place of joy,” or in some translations, “fulfillment of joy.” It was a tiny natural oasis shaded by groves of coconut trees, natural coves, and salt-water pools on O’ahu’s leeward shore. In the old days, it was home to a sheltered bathing spot, and it was a beloved area for fishing.

An early Hawaiian-language newspaper, *Ke Au Hou*, identified Ko Olina as the home of a bygone chief: “It is a lovely and delightful place and the chief, Kakuhihewa, loved this home of his.” It is said, too, that Kamehameha the Great’s favorite wife, Ka’ahumanu, was fond of the place and performed rejuvenating rituals here.

*“...Whatever the fate of the Hawaiian language, the place names will endure, in some shape or form, as part of the English language.”*

This quote, from the preface to Mary Kawena Pukui and Samuel Elbert’s *Place Names of Hawai’i* (1974), underscores the importance of remembering original place names and their significance to the Hawaiian people. Whatever the changes made or whatever the changes in store for the resort’s 642 acres, Ko Olina will continue to remain a magical place that lives up to the translation of its traditional Hawaiian name.



Above: Situated along the OR&L Railway, Ko Olina Center and Station will be a one-stop shopping, dining, and business complex, catering to locals and visitors alike. Below: The beautiful units of Marriott's Ko Olina Beach Club constitute O'ahu's first and only five-star timeshare resort.

## REMEMBERING THE TRAINS AT KO OLINA CENTER AND STATION

For the first time ever, Ko Olina Resort & Marina will be home to a unique 56,000-square-foot retail complex designed to be a one-stop shopping, dining, and business center. The Ko Olina Center and Ko Olina Station are on schedule to open by fall 2009 and complement one another perfectly.

The brains behind this new development, the Honu Group, has designed the complex as two multi-building structures flanking 'Olani Street, next to the old O'ahu Railway & Land Company tracks *mauka* (toward the mountains) of Ali'inui Drive, the resort's main thoroughfare. The OR&L recalls turn-of-the-century Hawai'i, when locomotives hauled freight and passengers up the leeward coast all the way to the North Shore as far as Kahuku.

The Ko Olina Center will consist of a two-story building on the west side of 'Olani Street with fourteen retail spaces and a restaurant. The entire second floor is being planned to accommodate various resort operations, from training rooms to executive offices. On the east side of the street sits Ko Olina Station, with fifteen retail spaces and plans for an upscale grocery.

The new complexes will cater to resort residents and visitors; they will feature a mix of favorite local restaurants and shops, counterpointing the high-end boutiques popular with resort patrons. Nick's Fishmarket, home furnishing store Blue Lobster Cottage, shoe retailer Walking in Paradise, Z Pizza, and Kimo Bean Coffee Co. are some of the businesses that have already signed on to be the center's first tenants.

## MARRIOTT'S KO OLINA BEACH CLUB EXTENDS THE 'OHANA (FAMILY)

With thirty oceanfront acres on a shimmering lagoon, it's no wonder Marriott's Ko Olina Beach Club is O'ahu's first and only five-star timeshare resort on O'ahu. Guests can soak up the Island lifestyle with extended stays while basking in the luxury of villa accommodations and first-class resort amenities. They can also experience the pride of ownership—the most appealing feature for many families and couples.

Scheduled for completion in January 2009, Marriott's Ko Olina Beach Club will unveil its new 14-story building with 246 two- and three-bedroom villas, complemented by a new feature pool with water slide and swim-through grotto, Nai'a Island Bar,



Above: The Ko Olina Beach Villas make luxurious beachfront living a reality.

whirlpool spas, and an additional BBQ area. The Club proposes a total of 750 villas at build-out.

Marriott's Ko Olina Beach Club currently offers two- and three-bedroom villas that emanate the gracious hospitality of Hawaiian plantation-style design, with breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean or the Wai'anae Mountains. A few of the recreational amenities offered include swimming pools, whirlpool spas, Kolohe's Poolside Bar and Grill, Chuck's Steak and Seafood Restaurant, a fitness center, a children's activity center and MAZE program, and incredible gardens, waterfalls, and tropical foliage. Villas can accommodate six to eight guests, all of whom are welcome to use the facilities of nearby Ko Olina Resort, including the eighteen-hole Ted Robinson-designed golf course and the 330-slip, state-of-the-art marina.

## BEACHFRONT LIVING: BEACH VILLAS AT KO OLINA

It's been more than twenty-five years since a new beachfront community has graced O'ahu's shores; the opening of the Beach Villas at Ko Olina has changed that. These luxury two- and three-bedroom villas are just steps from the beach and Ko Olina's *Honu* Lagoon. Open floor plans and spacious lanais blur the boundaries between indoor and outdoor living. Koi ponds, waterfalls, and lush landscapes enhance the beauty and bring a sense of serenity

like that of ancient times, when the *ali'i* (nobles) came here for rest and relaxation.

Among the exciting features of the Beach Villas at Ko Olina are signature kitchens designed by Hawai'i's foremost chef, Roy Yamaguchi, state-of-the-art appliances by SubZero and Wolf and an open layout for entertaining. Residents and guests also have access to a private fitness spa with the latest workout gear, sauna, steam rooms, and an outdoor lap pool and spa.

Ko Olina Beach Resort is the exclusive on-site vacation management company of the Beach Villas at Ko Olina. Led by Hawai'i hospitality industry executive and general manager Joseph Yamaoka, Ko Olina Beach Resort specializes in luxury hotel, resort condominium, and vacation home property management throughout the Hawaiian Islands. ♦

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# KO OLINA STATION

Honu Group is bringing you  
Ko Olina Center and Ko Olina Station.

Opening in 2009, these two mixed-use commercial developments, across from the new Disney Resort, will offer office space, specialty stores, restaurants, amenities and other services for the Ko Olina Resort & Marina community on the west coast of O'ahu, Hawai'i.

For leasing information call 808.542.9846.

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