



**THE ISLAND OF MOLOKA'I**  
**"Hawaiian by Nature"**  
**Fact Sheet**

Land Mass:	260 square miles (673 square km)
Population:	7,404
Principal City:	Kaunakakai
Flower:	White kukui blossom
Color:	Green

**GEOGRAPHY**

Fifth largest of the Hawaiian Islands, Moloka'i is 22 miles (35 km) east of O'ahu. It has 88 miles (142 km) of coastline and is a rectangular 38 miles (61 km) long by 10 miles (16 km) wide. The highest point is Kamakou, 4,970 feet (1,515 m), at the eastern end of the island.

**CLIMATE**

Average temperature ranges from 70° – 75° F (21° – 24° C), with rainfall measuring about 30 inches (76 cm) a year.

**MAJOR INDUSTRY**

Tourism

**RECREATION**

Swimming, golfing, hunting, and horseback and mule riding.

## **BRIEF HISTORY**

The friendly isle of Moloka'i long ago was known as the "lonely isle," because the power of its Kahuna priests was feared throughout the Hawaiian Islands. The mana (spirit) here was considered to be the strongest and greatest in all Hawai'i.

Warring island kings gave Moloka'i a wide berth, and persecuted natives often fled here for refuge. The nobility of Moloka'i was as princely as any in Hawai'i.

Kamehameha the Great journeyed to Moloka'i in 1790 to arrange for the hand of his queen, the high chiefess Keopuolani. In 1795, Kamehameha conquered the island in his westward thrust toward O'ahu and domination over all Hawai'i.

In the 1860s, the Hawaiian government established the isolated colony of Kalawao on the peninsula of Kalaupapa as the Hansen's Disease (leprosy) treatment settlement. It was here that the devoted Father Damien de Veuster spent his final days.

Growth and development on the island have been quite slow. There are no high-rises, no fast-food chains, and just a single traffic light on the whole island.

## **FASCINATING FACTS**

- The water reservoir in Kualapu'u holds 1.4 billion gallons and is the largest of its kind in the world.
- The highest sea cliffs in the world plunge – some more than 3,000 feet – into the ocean off Moloka'i's north shore.
- Kahiwa Falls, where water plunges 1,750 feet, is the highest falls in Hawai'i.

## **TOP- RATED ATTRACTIONS**

- Fishponds
- Keonelele Sand Dunes
- Halawa Valley Lookout
- Kalaupapa National Historic Park (access by special permission only)
- Snorkeling in the natural pools of Kapuāiwa Coconut Grove
- Moloka'i Museum & Cultural Center
- Phallic Rock
- Moa'ula Falls
- R.W. Meyer Sugar Mill