

'Āhihi-Kīna'u/Kanaio

Area Description

The 'Āhihi-Kīna'u and Kanaio Natural Area Reserves are important natural and cultural assets. 'Āhihi-Kīna'u was the State's first Natural Area Reserve, designated in 1973. The reserve includes marine ecosystems, anchialine ponds, and lava fields from the last eruption of Haleakalā. The 'Āhihi-Kīna'u Natural Area Reserve consists of 1,238 acres of land and 807 acres of ocean. Kanaio was designated a Natural Area Reserve in 1991. The rough lava terrain contains a remnant of the native dryland forest that once covered the leeward slope of Haleakalā, the Hoapili trail, and other archeological sites.

Why is this area important?

As the majority of South Maui has developed and changed, the 'Āhihi-Kīna'u and Kanaio Natural Area Reserves have protected and preserved the geologic setting of the most recent lava flow on Maui, unique nearshore coral reef ecosystems, anchialine ponds, many cultural and significant geologic sites, as well as habitat for numerous rare and endangered species. Although the area is primarily State Conservation, ensuring that development in the area respects the open space and the natural aesthetic will be necessary to maintain this unique area.

Area-specific policy: **Policy 3.5.1** | Preserve viewsheds, both mauka and makai, from Ahihi-Kina'u and Kanaio Natural Area Reserves. The built environment must respect the area's cultural and scenic resources and historic significance, and should blend with the surrounding area as much as possible.

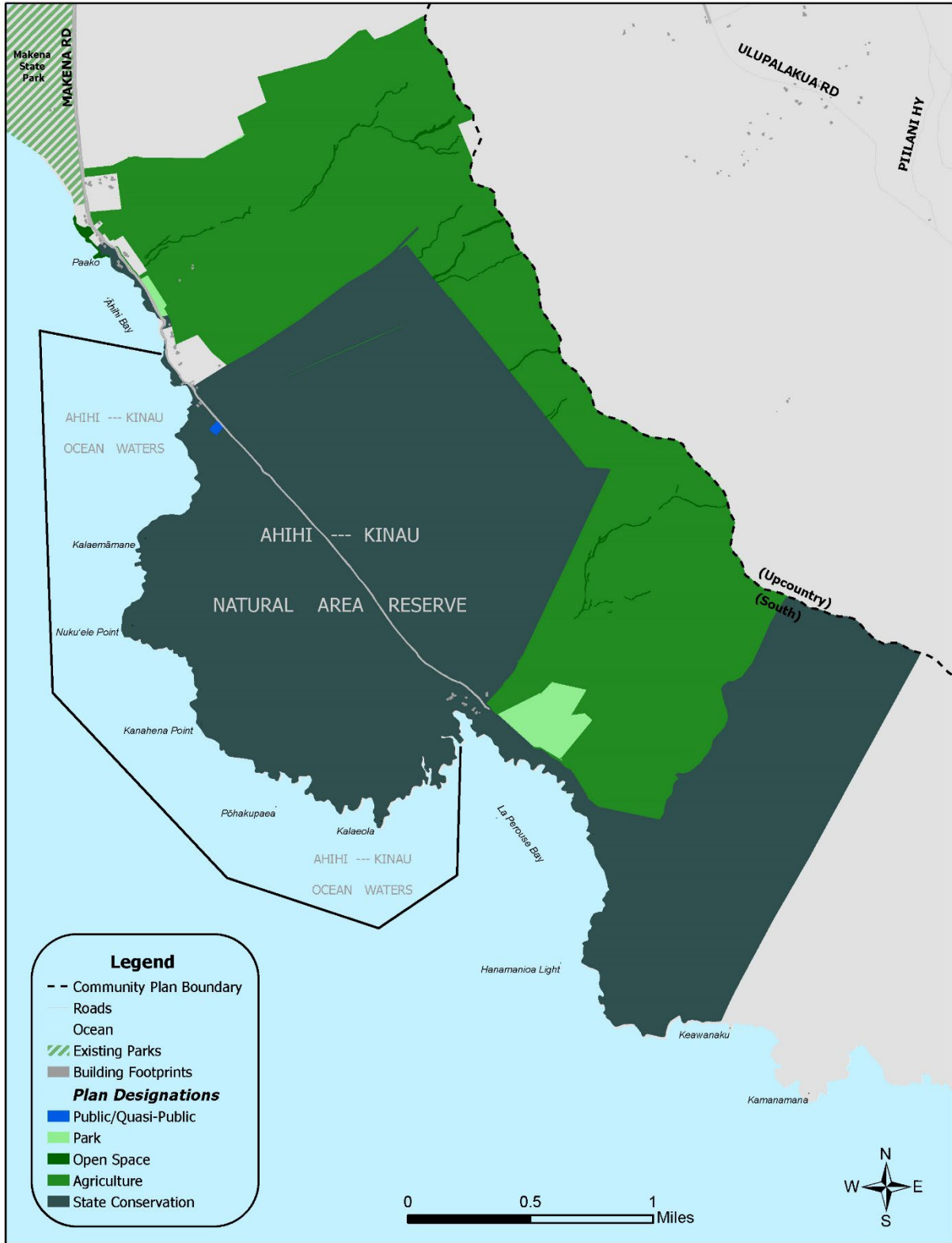


Figure 3.18: Area of Stability | 'Āhihi-Kīna'u

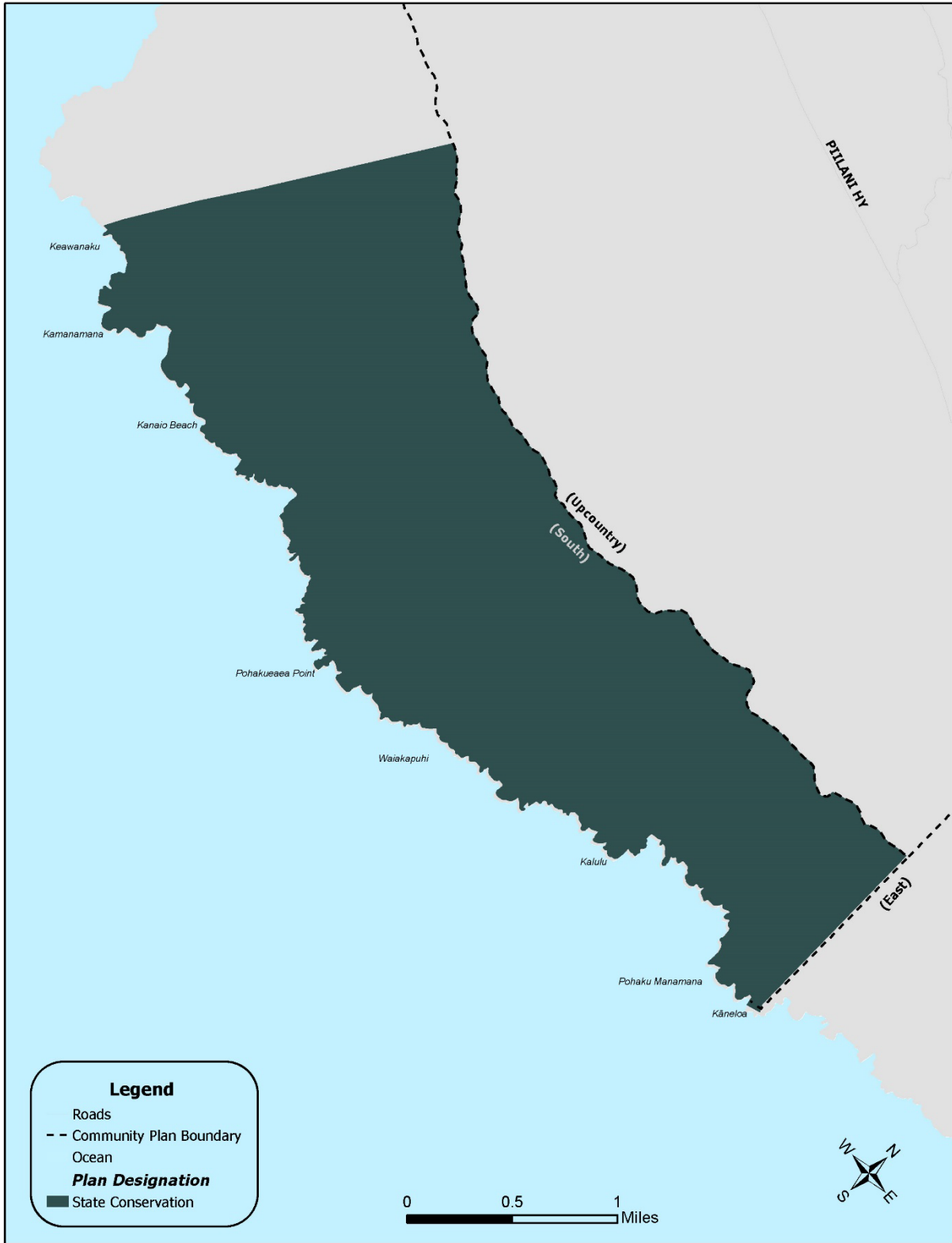


Figure 3.19: Area of Stability | Kanaio