

Access Guidelines

General policy rules for access to the cave and for visitation on the preserve property are as follows:

1. The Kipuka Kanohina Cave Preserve will be made available to independent organizations with an interest in pursuing research and educational activities. Individual permits will be negotiated to fit each circumstance.
2. The National Speleological Society, Cave Conservancy of Hawai'i, Kipuka Kanohina Cave Preserve Management Committee, and members of the Hawai'i Grotto (NSS chapter); will not be liable for any damages, accidents, injuries, or death, on the surface or subsurface of the property. All individuals entering the preserve (cavers and non-cavers) will be required to sign a liability waiver for each visit.
3. All vehicles are prohibited except on designated roads or in emergencies. This rule may be waived with written permission from the Kipuka Kanohina Cave Preserve Management Committee.
4. Overnight parking is permitted only at Kula Kai Caverns or at Don Coon's field house.
5. Visitors must use only established surface trail paths. To protect surface flora and to reduce erosion, no off-trail activities or use are permitted without permission from the Kipuka Kanohina Cave Preserve Management Committee. This includes climbing and rappelling.
6. Disturbing or destroying native plants or animals on the property or in the cave is not allowed.
7. Only caving groups may camp on the preserve. Only cavers and their non-caving spouses and friends may camp on the preserve.
8. Illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia are prohibited on the property. Alcohol and alcohol beverage containers are only permitted within areas designated by the Kipuka Kanohina Cave Preserve Management Committee.
9. Campfires and cooking stoves are permitted in designated areas. No other open flames are allowed on the property except in the use of carbide lamps for underground exploration.
10. There are no sanitation facilities on the property or in the cave. All waste and trash must be carried away.
11. Groups and individuals shall bring their own water and toilet paper.
12. Groups and individuals shall show respect for others and shall observe a quiet period from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Additionally, because there are homes nearby, individuals shall not engage in any lewd or lascivious behavior while on the preserve.

**Kipuka Kanohina Cave System
Release and Waiver of Liability Agreement**

I, the undersigned, (please print) _____, in consideration of my being granted permission to visit the Kipuka Kanohina Cave System, Hawai'i County, Hawaii, such permission granted to me at my specific request, hereby agree as follows: I knowingly, freely, and voluntarily, for myself, my heirs, personal representatives, and assignees, WAIVE any right or cause of action of any kind whatsoever arising as a result of my visiting Kipuka Kanohina Cave System or the adjacent property, from which any liability may or could accrue to the Cave Conservancy of Hawai'i, Inc., its executive board and officers, committees, agents, administrators, and members, and trip leaders and trip members and assume all risks of injury to myself, including death by falls, rock fall, cuts, or other accident, and to my property, while participating in cave exploring or in any activities incidental thereto from the beginning of time up to and including the full extent of the time that I am on or within the bounds of their property.

I acknowledge that sections of Kipuka Kanohina Cave System controlled by the Cave Conservancy of Hawai'i are completely "wild" and no improvements have been made or are desirable. I understand that a visit to a wild cave involved certain risks including by not limited to those listed below. I desire to visit Kipuka Kanohina Cave System and will do so completely at my own risk.

I acknowledge that Kipuka Kanohina Cave System contains over 15 miles of maze-like passage, there may be more passage unknown to the owners, and that a very real danger of becoming lost exists.

I acknowledge that regions of Kipuka Kanohina Cave System are physically demanding and may require climbing on unstable lava rock.

I acknowledge that the Kipuka Kanohina Cave System contains unstable and loose rock. Such rock can fall on me or cause me to fall.

I acknowledge that lava rock is very sharp, and can cause extremely deep cuts and puncture wounds, even severing arteries.

I will not make any changes to the cave, including digging out of crawlways or otherwise modifying the passages.

I will not disturb any biological, paleontological, archeological or mineral site.

I will not leave anything in the cave that I took in with me and I will not bring anything extra out of the cave except the normal dust on my clothing and trash left by cavers.

I will not smoke in the cave.

I will not use any alcohol or other intoxication substances in the cave or for at least eight hours before visiting the cave. This includes prescription drugs that could impair balance, coordination, or strength.

I understand that it is a criminal act under Hawai'i law to knowingly harm or disturb any cave deposit, or speleothem.

I acknowledge that no compensation, other than a share of expenses, has been given the trip leader or organizer of this trip, as this is not allowed.

I understand that I am a licensee on this property and that owner's liability toward me is limited by Hawai'i Statute.

If you have read this far, place an asterisk on the upper right hand corner of this page.

I, for myself and my heirs, personal representatives, or assignees, from the date of this release and waiver agreement, and forever hereafter, hold the Cave Conservancy of Hawai'i, its executive board and officers, agents, members, and the trip leaders and trip members harmless and blameless for any injury to myself, including death, occasioned by my participation in, or presence at caving activities, whether resulting by or through the negligence of the Cave Conservancy of Hawai'i, its executive board and officers, agents, members, or trip leaders or trip members, their agents, servants, officers, or employees. Should I, my heirs, personal representatives, or assignees, institute any action against either the owner or owners of record or the trip leader or trip members arising out of injury to myself or property, then and in that event, I for myself and my heirs, legal representatives, and assignees, HEREBY AGREE to pay all costs of such actions, including attorney fees incurred by them.

WITNESS my hand and seal this date:

If applicant is under 18 years of age, parents(s) or guardians(s) must also sign and AGREE to the above RELEASE and WAIVER

Signed _____

Signed _____

Address _____

Printed Name _____

Birth Date _____

Signed _____

Printed Name _____

Never cave alone. Carry three sources of light. Tell someone where you have gone and when you will return