

# Secret Trail to Makapuu Pools and Pele's Chair

By Don Eovino

The Makapuu adventure hike on March 18 was planned months in advance because of the inaccessibility of the area at high tide. The path was around the bottom of Pele's Chair and along a secret path on the rugged coastline only the fishermen use and most people don't casually find.

The day was determined based on low tide charts and was a little more vigorous than previous ones. On most of this route the path was along a rocky shoreline with no trail, and some spots along this section ended up being dangerous in spite of the low tide. High surf was a surprise no one expected.



Although the tide was low, the waves picked up considerably and about two thirds into the hike, one had the choice of turning back, or forging ahead. Some turned back but most decided to move ahead.

The waves crashing against the lava created a spray that sometimes was 20 feet high, and went up the side of the trail. If you didn't time it quite right, you could be hit with an incredibly strong spray that could knock you off your balance and force you to cling to the lava rocks. The lava was made of 'Aa 'Aa, and was quite sharp, causing several scratched hands and legs.

The experience was probably the hiking adventure of a lifetime, as the scenery was the most dramatic we had seen because of the waves. We did learn that hiking is a risk, and proper clothing is important and some hikes are more difficult than others. We will post the challenges as we know them, but Mother Nature has a way of doing her own accounting!

Our group consisted of OCC members Katy Bourne, hike leader; Gerry DeBenedetti, Blake Johnson, and several other intrepid adventuresome souls.

Stay tuned for Adventure hikes each month. The location will be posted in the tunnel or on the OCC website.