

would want canyoning shoes and a pair of carbide-tipped hiking sticks. Most people, however, will do fine with some local fishing tabs (available from Kmart or Walmart) or some hiking shoes with fairly soft rubber.

An alternative is Waikaumalo Falls farther down the same road. It's a bit farther upstream (1,250 feet). Starting at Waikaumalo Park, ignore the teaser trail behind the facilities (it only leads to frustration and despair) and instead head upstream on the nearshore bank. The boulders aren't as difficult (most of the time) as Nanue, but there's a place  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the way in where you'll have to swim across a pool to continue, and the end just before the falls is pretty clumsy. This stream doesn't seem quite as clean as Nanue, but the waterfall at the end is still rewarding.

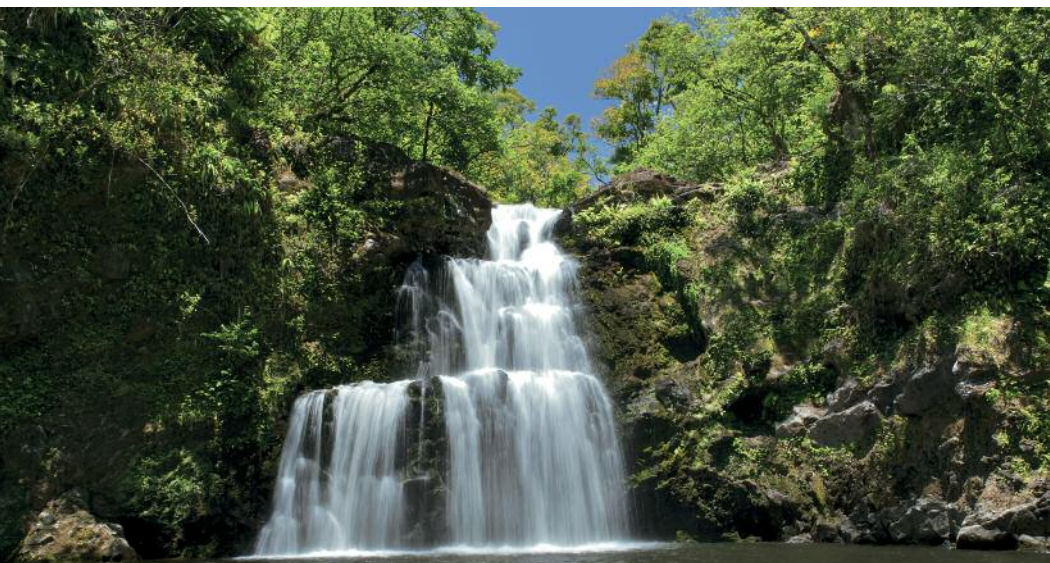
Avoid when the streams are raging, and read up on leptospirosis, listed under HAZARDS in BASICS.

Though rare, **flash floods** can occur in any freshwater stream anywhere in

the world, and it can happen when it's sunny where you are but raining up the mountain. Be alert for them.

### COMMAND YOUR OWN BOAT

There are lots of charter boats plying the waters off Kona. But what if you want to do things your *own* way? At press time, only one company rented power boats. **Kona Boat Rentals** (326-9155) at Honokohau Harbor rents 21-foot, single-hull boats. They're made using an amazingly tough material/process called Roplene. With their 115-horsepower outboards, they'll cut through the water at 25+ MPH. Best of all, you *don't* need prior experience. (Though they will screen you to make sure you're not a moron.) Take it as far north as Kawaihae, as far south as Miloli'i. (Check out the otherwise-inaccessible black sand beach at N19°20.512' by W155°53.168'.) They'll outfit you with fishing or snorkel gear (SCUBA is extra). Their GPS is preprogrammed with numerous moorings, and



*You didn't drive to Nanue Falls. You didn't really even hike here. You just sort of...groped your way to this lovely waterfall.*



*You'll find crowds of wild pigs rather than crowds of hikers during your stay in Waimanu Valley.*

they'll show you how to tie up to them. They'll give you some instructions, bring the boat to the harbor, and off you go.

The catch? *Price*. The half-day rental is \$325; it's \$450 for the day, *plus* gas. That's a big chunk of money. If you have 4 to 6 people, it's not quite as painful when you split it. Seeing the area this way is a real hoot. But nobody ever said hoots were cheap. Nevertheless, it's a great way to SCUBA, snorkel or fish *where* and *how* you want.

### LOSE YOURSELF IN WAIMANU VALLEY

Hawai'i is the most isolated chain of islands in the world. If that isn't enough for you, and you *really* want to get away from it all, this is the adventure for you. Waimanu Valley has all the ingredients you would expect from a pristine Hawaiian valley, such as waterfalls, feral pigs and a black sand beach. At one time it supported a large number of Hawaiians until

the 1946 tsunami ruined their taro fields. These days you'll see more helicopters here than people. Hiking in takes 5-6 hours, and you may even have the valley all to yourself, if you can make the grueling  $7\frac{3}{4}$  mile trek. Don't try to do this as a day hike. Stay at least two nights to really soak in the majesty of the valley.

You need to plan this adventure a few weeks in advance by calling the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (974-4221) in Hilo for a permit. We also recommend you bring sturdy shoes, a tent and water filter or purification tablets. A 4WD vehicle is required to get down into Waipi'o Valley to start the hike. If you take your rental, be sure to leave nothing in it and the doors *unlocked* to deter any would-be criminals from smashing their way into your car. (Though leaving it unlocked *may* void your rental insurance.) If you take the Waipi'o Valley Shuttle (775-7121) down into Waipi'o, you'll have to worry about looking for a ride back up after your long hike.