

this beach is sometimes called Makena Beach. It's usually called Maluaka Beach, as the signs often say. Hey, don't blame us—we're just the messengers. For clarification (*ha!*) we'll call this beach Maluaka Beach.

Fronting the Makena Beach Resort, this wide, pretty beach slopes gently, providing good swimming during calm seas, especially toward the center of the beach where a thick padding of sand awaits. During calm seas keiki (kids) splash about with abandon. There is shade at the south (left) end, as well as restrooms, showers and picnic tables. Parking is past the Makena Beach Resort, where Makena Road backtracks, 3<sup>10</sup>/<sub>10</sub> miles south of the Wailea Alanui/Wailea Ike intersection. (See map on page 131.) If the lot's full, try using Makena Road just south of Honoiki. You can drop off people and beach gear at the sand, then park your

car about 100 yards from the drop-off area, near the Keawala'i Church. Don't walk through the church cemetery.

The snorkeling off to the left (south) is very good with good coral and fish, and usually *lots* of turtles. In fact, this area is one of the famed *turtle towns* that some snorkel boats take people to see. Off to the right also offers good snorkeling.

#### ❖ Oneuli Beach / Black Sand Beach



Less known than other beaches in the area since it's not well marked and can't be seen from the road. Those who do know about it usually call it simply *Black Sand Beach*. It's on the north (right) side of that large hill in Makena called Pu'u Ola'i, and you access it from the short, bumpy, but usually passable dirt road shown on the map on page 133. (Keep an eye out for deer on this road.) Once you're at the salt and pepper



beach, it's easy to see how it formed. Pu'u Ola'i is essentially a large mound of lava cinders created from an enormous lava fountain. Wave action has bitten into the cinder cone, causing the loose black cinders to fall into the ocean where they are ground into black sand. Over the years shells have been pulverized into sand and coral has been...well, *processed* by parrotfish, adding salt to the pepper.

The water at Black Sand Beach is usually calm, but the sand gives way to a lava shelf at the water's edge, making the swimming marginal. However, the snorkeling can be great, and turtles are very common on the left side near the hill. Visibility is usually cloudy near the shore, so head out and to the left for lots of coral, turtles and fish. If it's calm, you can snorkel all the way around Pu'u Ola'i, and it gets even better. Beware of any currents by occasionally stopping to see if you are drifting. Kayakers sometimes visit the beach, but it's rarely crowded.

#### ❖ Big Beach / Oneloa / Makena

Big Beach is what many people think of when they think of a Hawaiian beach. It is considered by many to be *the* beach

*Oneuli Beach/Black Sand Beach is often lost in the shuffle of world-class South Maui beaches.*



on Maui. (Not to be confused with another beach in West Maui also called **Oneloa Beach**.) Almost <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> mile long and over 100 feet wide, this beautiful crescent of golden sand is a dream for swimmers, snorkelers, frolickers and sometimes boogie boarders. When seas are calm, the water is very inviting. You won't find it empty; it's one of the more popular beaches. But you *will* find it enchanting.

During the '60s hippies from the mainland came to Maui looking to get back to nature, and they found their nirvana at what was then an isolated beach. Unable to remember its Hawaiian name, Oneloa (meaning *long sands*), they referred to it as simply Big Beach, a name that has stuck. (They also called it **Makena Beach**, which is incorrect. Makena Beach is farther north, but that name, too, has stuck.) After several years of hippie occupation, disease outbreaks from a lack of hygiene, lack of proper waste disposal, and con-

*Why aren't you wet yet? Maluaka Beach in front of the Makena Beach Resort has good swimming and great snorkeling.*

