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## The towns of Maui Nui ~ KAHULUI



**Since the time of King Kamehameha I, with the whaling industry, Maui was already the main hub of trade and commerce in Hawaii.**

When whaling diminished, agriculture emerged, and sugar became the new trend. Kahului was first established during the 1850's with the acquisition of land between Makawao and Paia by Henry Baldwin and Samuel Alexander in order to grow sugar. The plantation flourished and soon paved the way for development of roads, subdivisions, and new markets to emerge. During the early 1900's the Kahului camp village included stores, eateries, movie theaters and residential housing.



Despite being hit by bubonic plague the settlement continued to grow. In the 1950's, Kahului was transformed to a modern suburban community that provided homes that the local plantation workers could own. 'Dream City' was the largest development in Hawaii at that time, and Kahului Shopping Center was touted to be "the first shopping center west of the Mississippi River."



With the addition of a deep-draft harbor and an international airport, Kahului's status as Maui's major city was realized. Today, Kahului is the retail center for Maui residents with several commercial shopping centers, malls, and many major stores. It encompasses Maui County's largest light industrial area.



Kahului is not generally considered a tourist destination, but does feature the Alexander and Baldwin Sugar Museum, Kanaha Pond State Wildlife Sanctuary, Kanaha Beach County Park, and the Maui Arts and Cultural Center, pictured at left.

The largest community in Maui County (population 22,622) Kahului lies on the north shore of central Maui.

What is your #1 reason for going to Kahului?



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