

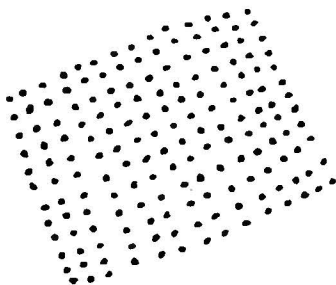


## Kōnane

*Play a game of kōnane (ko-náh-nay) in the cool shade near Keone`ele Cove, as the early Hawaiians did.*

*This game of skill and strategy can be learned in minutes, but may take a lifetime to master.*

## Papamū



The Hawaiians gouged small *puka* (depressions) in huge flat lava stones to create a game board called *papamū*. Black lava pieces, light-colored coral, or seashells were used for game pieces.

Around the island of Hawai`i, papamū of many different shapes, sizes and weight can be found. Fishermen have come across large rocks along the seashore, both in and out of water, with impressions numbering up to and beyond 100.

The image at the left is of a papamū carved into an extensive petroglyph field at Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park, three miles north of Kona. A ½ mile trail from the Visitor Center will take you to this impressive petroglyph field.

Kūpuna (elders) tell us that the papamū served many purposes. In addition to the game of kōnane, it may have been used as: calendars or abacus, for strategic war planning, divination, medical instruction and diagnosis, charting and teaching constellations and navigation.

*It was said that King Kamehameha was an excellent player, sometimes beating his opponent in one move. Early visitors to Hawai`i wrote of the popularity of this game and noted that Kamehameha would sit long hours over the game. His skill was so great that his chiefs and queens were no match for him.*



## Prepare to Engage

Fill all the holes alternately with light and dark pebbles. To check readiness for play, look across the papamū from one corner to the opposite. Each diagonal row should be the same color.

## How to Play

Sit across from each other. One player puts a pebble in each hand, one dark and one light, then puts both hands behind their back. Present closed hands to your opponent, who selects a hand, thereby selecting the color of pebble they will be playing with. Place the two pieces on the papamū. The player with the dark pebbles goes first.

“Black” removes a black stone from anywhere on the board. “White” removes a white stone from anywhere on the board.

“Black” jumps one of the light pieces and removes it. “White” jumps one of the dark pieces and removes it; players continue to take turns.

In any move, a player moves only one pebble, jumping any direction but diagonally. You cannot move in more than one direction in a turn; you may choose to make multiple jumps but you don’t have to.

As the game continues, there will be fewer pebbles on the board, thus fewer chances to jump. The player who makes the last jump wins.



*More than 100 years ago, the fame and skill of the Hawaiian kōnane players reached the ears of the world. The king of England sent his champion draughts players around the world challenging all comers to a game of checkers. King Kamehameha sent his “queens” team to meet the challenge, and they beat the best of the British Empire at their own game.*

---

**Pu`uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park** was established in 1961. The Royal Grounds were home to generations of *ali`i* (chiefs.) The grounds include thatched *hale* (houses,) a royal fishpond, Keone`ele Cove, and the Hale o Keawe *heiau* (pace of worship.) The Great Wall encloses the *pu`uhonua* (a place of refuge) where those who had broken *kapu* (laws) could be forgiven.

