

Driving directions to Pu'ū Wa'awa'a



From Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry (60 Nowelo Street, Hilo, HI 96720):

Leave parking lot, turn right onto Nowelo St., turn right at traffic light onto Komohana St.; travel to next traffic light and make a right onto W. Puainako St. continue on this road for approximately 52 miles (NOTE: W. Puainako street will merge into Saddle Road (Route 200) in approximately 4.6 miles; continue on this road) until you come to the Saddle Road Junction. Turn left onto the Māmalahoa Hwy (Hwy 190) and continue to travel south for approximately 16 miles. You will pass the 21 mile marker, then the Big Island Country Club on your right, followed by the Pu'ū Lani Ranch Subdivision on your left. The road then curves down the Pu'ū Anahulu bluff past a church on your left and when it straightens out at the bottom you will see a left turn with a metal gate and a mail box stand (71-1645 Māmalahoa Highway, Kailua Kona, HI 96740). The metal gate has signs that say: "Pu'ū Wa'awa'a Forest Reserve" & "Keep Gate Closed" attached to the gate. The gate is normally locked from 6 pm to 6 am. Open the gate and let yourself through and then close the gate behind you (gate must stay closed because the area is actively grazed by cattle).

From Kailua Kona:

From the Kailua Kona Airport – as you exit Kona International Airport at Keahole (KOA), take a right onto Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway (Hwy 19). After less than a minute, take your first left at the light onto Ka'iminani Drive. Follow Ka'iminani Drive uphill 3.6 miles to the Māmalahoa Highway (Also the Belt Road, or Highway 190), take a left. Follow ~ 12 miles (~20 minutes) to Mile Marker 22. The main entrance to Pu'ū Wa'awa'a Forest Reserve is just after the 22 mile marker on the Māmalahoa Highway (Highway 190). Just past the 22 mile marker on the right side of the road (mauka or uphill side) you will see a mail box stand and a metal gate with signs that say: "Pu'ū Wa'awa'a Forest Reserve" & "Keep Gate Closed" attached to the gate. The gate is normally locked from 6 pm to 6 am. Open the gate and let yourself through and then close the gate behind you (gate must stay closed because the area is actively grazed by cattle). Travel time from Kailua Kona to Pu'ū Wa'awa'a main entrance takes roughly 35 minutes (19 miles) depending on traffic.

From Waimea/Kamuela

From Waimea (Kamuela), travel 21 miles along the Māmalahoa Highway, heading south. The main entrance to Pu'ū Wa'awa'a Forest Reserve is off of the Māmalahoa highway (Highway 190) just after the town of Pu'ū Anahulu. You will pass the 21 mile marker, then the Big Island Country Club on your right, followed by the Pu'ū Lani Ranch Subdivision on your left. The road then curves down the Pu'ū Anahulu bluff past a church on your left and when it straightens out at the bottom you will see a left turn with a metal gate and a mail box stand. The metal gate has signs that say: "Pu'ū Wa'awa'a Forest Reserve" & "Keep Gate Closed" attached to the gate. The gate is normally locked 6 pm to 6 am. Open the gate and let yourself through and then close the gate behind you (gate must be closed because of cattle). Travel time from Waimea (Kamuela) to the main gate is about 40 minutes (23 miles) depending on traffic.