

Glossary of Hawaiian words

- 'ahu'awa.** A sedge (*Dodonaea viscosa*).
- ahupua'a.** Land division usually extending from the uplands to the sea.
- aikāne.** Friend; formerly male companion to the *ali'i*.
- 'āina.** Land, earth.
- akamai.** Smart, clever, expert.
- Akua; akua.** God; god, goddess, spirit.
- 'alaea.** Water-soluble colloidal ochrous earth, used for coloring salt, medicine, for dye, and in purification ceremony.
- ali'i.** Chief or chiefess, noble, monarch, aristocrat.
- 'aloe.** Any plant of the *Aloe* genus, a succulent used externally as a medicine.
- aloha.** Sharing compassion or love.
- aloha 'āina.** Love of the land, patriotism.
- 'au'au kai.** Bathe in the ocean.
- 'aumakua.** Family or personal god or guardian.
- 'awa.** *Kava* (*Piper methysticum*), a shrub native to Pacific islands, the root being the source of a narcotic drink of the same name used in ceremonies. Also known as *kavakava*, *kawa*, *kava*, *'ava*, *sakau*, and *yaqona*.
- 'awapuhi.** Shampoo ginger (*Zingiber zerumbet*) or any wild ginger.
- hāhā.** Diagnosis by feel or palpation.
- haipule.** Piety.
- haka.** Medium, oracle, one possessed.
- Hale-o-Papa.** House of the goddess Papa, i.e. house where religious services were held for women.
- hana ka lima.** Work with your hands.
- hānai.** To raise, feed, provide for, sustain; foster child, adopted child.
- haumana.** Student, pupil, apprentice, recruit, disciple.
- ha'uoi or ha'uōwī or ōwī.** A weedy verbena (*Verbena litoralis*); applied externally by Hawaiians to treat cuts and bruises.
- ho'ohānau.** To act as a midwife; deliver a baby.
- ho'ohāpai.** To cause conception; to perform ceremonies or take treatment to induce conception.
- ho'okahi.** To cut longitudinally, shave, plane, comb, press, rub or stroke, as in a massage, with gentle pressure of the open palm of the hand.
- ho'okahuna.** Training.
- ho'okupu.** Tribute, to pay tribute; unsolicited gifts from clients.
- ho'olohe ka pepeiao.** Lit., listen with your ear. Listen attentively.
- ho'olomilomi.** Practice of Hawaiian massage, rubbing, pressing.
- ho'omaika'i.** To thank, bless, congratulate, praise.
- ho'oponopono.** To correct.
- huhū.** Anger; angry.
- hui.** Club, association, society, corporation, firm, partnership, union; to form a partnership or society.
- hula.** Dance; to dance a hula.
- 'Ike Aku, 'Ike Mai.** Recognize and be recognized.
- 'ilau.** To do together.
- 'imi hale.** To seek and establish an inheritance for one's children.
- inoa.** The tradition of naming.
- 'i'o.** Flesh, meat, muscle, substance; true, genuine, significant, real.
- ipu heke.** Gourd drum with a top section.
- ipu kua'aha, or ipu-o-Lono.** Gourd or container of sacred objects; gourd calabash covered with a sennit net and suspended by a handle composed of four cords; food offerings were placed inside for the god Lono.
- iwi.** Bone. The bones of the dead, considered the most cherished possession, were hidden and hence there are many figurative expressions with *iwi* meaning life and old age.
- Ka'ala.** Highest mountain on O'ahu (4020 ft.) in the Wai'anae range.
- Kaho'olawe.** Uninhabited island 7 miles off Maui's western shore used by U.S. military for bombing practice for 49 years before bombing was halted in 1990 and the island was returned to the people of Hawai'i in 1993; the movement to stop the bombing, begun in 1976 and founded upon the principle of *aloha 'āina*, was at the forefront of the renaissance of Hawaiian pride and struggle for self-determination.
- kahuna.** Priest, minister, expert in any profession.
- kahuna 'anā'anā.** Sorcerer who practices black magic, as one who prays a person to death.
- kahuna lā'au lapa'au.** Medical healer; medical practitioner who has extensive knowledge of medicinal use of plants and herbs.
- kai.** Sea water, ocean.
- kai kapū.** Aged, creeping with age.
- kalo.** Taro, the staple of a traditional Hawaiian diet; of which some species were used as food and some were used internally for medicine.

- Kanaka maoli.* Hawaiian person.
- Kanaloa.* One of the major Hawaiian gods; early name of the island of Kaho'olawe.
- kanikapila.* To play music; the playing of music.
- kapu.* Taboo, prohibition, ban; sacred, holy, consecrated.
- kauka.* Physician.
- kaumaha.* Heaviness, weight; sad, downcast, troubled, depressed, grief.
- kekahi i kekahi.* From one to another.
- ki.* Ti leaves or plant, not used as a medicine, but as a healing apparatus, as well as apparatus for food preparation.
- kinolau.* Many forms taken by a supernatural body, such as Pele, who could become at will a flame of fire, a young girl, or an old hag; the physical manifestation of a deity, such as Kanaloa being represented by an octopus, breadfruit, or red fish.
- koa.* Warrior, soldier; brave, bold, fearless, valiant; native hardwood tree (*Acacia koa* subsp. *koa*)
- koali.* Various species of morning glory (*Ipomoea* spp.) belonging to sweet potato family and used as a famine food, and as medicine both internally and externally.
- koko.* Blood.
- kōkua.* Cooperation; to help, assist, support.
- koli.* Same as *pā'aila*, castor bean or castor-oil plant. *Kolī ke'oke'o*, light-colored or *kolī 'ula'ula*, red.
- ko'oko'olau.* All kinds of beggar ticks (*Bidens* spp.). Most native, some introduced, some used by Hawaiians medicinally, mostly as a tonic in tea.
- Ku'i-a-Holo.* A god of lua fighting.
- Ku'i-a-Lua.* A god of lua fighting.
- kūkākūkā.* Consult, discuss, deliberate; talk-story session.
- kukui.* Lamp, light, torch; candlenut tree (*Aleurites moluccana*).
- kulā iwi.* The land of their bones, the place where they were born and raised, and the land of Hawai'i. The basis of health for Hawaiians was having a spiritual connection to the place their ancestors reside.
- kuleana.* Right, privilege, concern, responsibility, title, jurisdiction, authority, liability.
- kupuna.* Elder, ancestor, grandparent. *kūpuna*. [Plural]
- lā'au kāhea.* Distance prayer and prayer for guidance for healing.
- lā'au lapa'au.* Traditional Hawaiian healing belief system rooted firmly in nature and history.
- laua'e.* A fragrant fern (*Phlebodium aureum*).
- lauhala.* Leaf of pandanus (*Pandanus odoratissimus*) or screwpine, used for woven mats, baskets and hats. (Tree is *hala*; flower or key is *puahala*.)
- laukahi.* Broad-leafed plantain (*Plantago major*); used externally to ripen and heal boils; internally for diabetes and other ailments.
- laulima.* Lit., many hands. Cooperation, joint action; to work together, cooperate.
- lei.* Garland, wreath; necklace of flowers, leaves, shells, ivory, feathers, or paper, given as a symbol of affection. Fig. A beloved child, wife, sweetheart, younger sibling or child.
- liko.* Bud. *nā liko*. Buds.
- lōkahi.* Unity, agreement, accord; balance of physical, emotional and spiritual elements.
- lomilomi.* To rub, press, squeeze, massage, crush, rub out.
- lua.* Hawaiian fighting art.
- luhi.* Weary, tired, fatigued.
- māhū.* Homosexual of either sex, hermaphrodite.
- māhuna.* Scaly appearance of the skin, resulting from excessive use of 'awa.
- maka'āinana.* Common people.
- maile hohono.* An American composite (*Ageratum conyzoides* & *A. houstonianum*), a hairy, weak-stemmed herb with light blue florets.
- ma'i mawaho.* External symptoms such as cuts, scrapes, broken bones, etc.
- malo.* Male's loincloth.
- ma loko.* From within. *ma'i maloko*. Internal illness or symptoms.
- māmaki.* Small native trees (*Pipturus* spp.) with broad white-backed leaves and white mulberry-like fruit; the bark yields a bark used in *tapa*; a tea is brewed from its leaves.
- mana.* Supernatural or divine power, authority; special talent, powers, or knowledge could be passed or bestowed on to a particular person or family.
- mana'o.* Thought, idea, opinion, theory, meaning, mind.
- mā'opa'opa.* Tired, aching, of legs; to limp.
- ma'uhā.* Weary, aching, tired.
- ma waho.* By influences from the outside.
- mihi.* Repentance; to repent, apologize, be sorry, regret.
- moku.* District, island, section, forest, fragment, severed portion; a ship or boat.
- mo'okū'auhau.* Genealogy, genealogical succession.
- mo'olelo.* Story, tale, myth, legend.

- mo'opuna.* Grandchild, great-grand-niece or nephew, relatives two generations later, descendant.
- nānā ka maka.* Look with your eyes. Look carefully, pay attention.
- niu.* Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*).
- noelo.* To delve or seek, as for knowledge.
- noni.* Indian mulberry (*Morinda citrifolia*) used by Hawaiians and other Polynesians as a medicine.
- 'ohana.* Family, relative, kin group, related.
- 'ōhi'a 'ai.* The mountain apple (*Eugenia malaccensis*).
- 'ōiwi.* Native of the land.
- ola.* Life, health, well-being, living, livelihood.
- 'ōlelo no'eau.* Proverb.
- 'ōlena.* Turmeric (*Curcuma domestica*), a kind of ginger distributed from India to Polynesia, widely used as a spice and dye in foods, to color cloth and tapa, and medicinally for earache and lung trouble.
- oli.* Chanting, chant.
- 'olohe lua.* Master of lua.
- 'ō'ō.* To pierce, lance, abort, cut; circumcise.
- 'ōpū huli.* A "turned stomach" caused by falls.
- pa'a ka waha.* Shut your mouth.
- Papa.* The earth, the Earth Mother.
- Papa-hanau-moku.* Papa, begetter of the islands.
- pilikia.* Trouble, problem, distress.
- po'e kahiko.* Old, ancients, persons of old.
- po'okela.* Master.
- pono.* Goodness, rightness, morality; correct or proper procedure.
- pōpōlo.* Glossy nightshade (*Solanum americanum*) used by Hawaiians as a medicine for disorders of the respiratory tract, for skin eruptions, and (mixed with salt) as a healing agent for cuts and wounds.
- pule.* Prayer.
- pule ho'ōla.* Prayer for healing.
- pupule.* Crazy, insane, reckless, wild.
- pu'uhonua.* Place of refuge, sanctuary, place of peace and safety.
- tūtū.* Grandmother, grandparent.
- 'uhaloa.* A small downy weed (*Waltheria americana*), the leaves and bitter bark of which are used for tea or chewed to relieve sore throat.
- uli'eo.* Fitness, preparedness.
- 'umeke.* Bowl, calabash made of wood or gourd.
- wahi pana.* A storied, celebrated, noted or legendary place.
- wai.* Fresh water.
- Wākea.* The ancestor of all Hawaiians; according to Hawaiian tradition, a man rather than a god.
- wao akua.* A distant mountain region, believed inhabited only by spirits. ■

