

Glossary of Hawaiian Words

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A'eo bird	a'-ee oh	Also known as a Hawaiian stilt, it is a slender water bird that is black and white with pink legs and a long black beak
'Akepa bird	ā-ke'-pa	One of the smallest of birds standing only 4 inches high. Bright red feathers and endangered
Ali'i	ah-lee'ee	Chief or someone from the favored elite ruling class or family
Ano	ā-nō	Boy's name meaning awe, reverence, peacefulness, sacredness
A'u	a'ū	Blue marlin
Ewalu	eh-vah-loo	The number eight
Ha'ena	ha'-ee nāh	A beach town north coast of Kaua'i
Hāhālua	hāh-hāh-loo-ah	Manta ray
Hala tree	hā'-la	Fruit bearing tree with multiple smaller roots and long thin leaves. 30 to 45 feet high
Haloa	haa-low-ah	The name of the baby who died at birth and gave forth kalo
Hāloanakalau kapalili	haa-low-ah-na-kaloo-ah-ka-pa-leelee	<i>Hāloanakalaukapalili</i> was the eldest child of Wākea and Ho'ohōkūkalan. The baby died and became the first kalo plant.
Hapu	hā'-pū	grouper
Hele	hē'-le	Go
Hōlua	hō'-lū'-ā	The practice of riding a reed or wood sled down a cliff or down a mountain
Imu	i'-mū	A shallow pit used to bake food or roast meat.

Ipu	i'pū	A gourd, often called a bottle gourd, hollowed out and used as a container for storage or musical instruments.
Kāhili	kah-hi-li	Ceremonial staff
Ka'imi	kah i'-mī	The search
Kahuna	kah-hoo-nah	Priest or highly learned teacher or hero, master of an art.
Kai	ky-ee	Shallow ocean near shore.
Kai Manu	ky-ee mah-nū	Sea bird
Kaiko	kah-ee-koh	Hawaiian name which means 'sea with strong current'. It is derived from the Hawaiian words 'kai', which means 'sea', and 'ko', which means 'strong current'.
Kala	k ā'-lā	A person who speaks out.
Kalo	Kā'lō	Large leafy plant with fist-shaped root used as a staple food in Hawaii.
Kapa	kā'-pa	The cloth beaten from the bark of the wauki or paper mulberry tree.
Kapu	kah-poo	Forbidden, often used in reference to the kapu law governing what was forbidden in ancient Hawaii.
<i>Kauila</i>	kā'-u-ī'-la	Tall extremely hardwood tree native to Hawaii.
Keikikāne	kay-kee-kāh-neh	Son
Koki'o	kō'- lī'-o	Red hibiscus flower.
Koko	kō-ko	Blood
Konane	kō'-nā'-ne	Board game like checkers.
<i>Kumulipo</i>	Kū'-mū'-lī'-po	Ancient chant describing creation of earth. Beginning in deep darkness.
Ku'ula	Kū'-u'lā	Great fisherman blessed by god Ku.
Lana	lā'-na	To be carried or afloat on still waters.
Lauhala	lā'u-hā'-la	Lau means leaf, hala is the hala tree. Lauhala are leaves of the hala tree.

Lono	lō'-no	The deity Lono is associated with fertility, agriculture, rainfall, music and peace.
Makahiki	Mā'-kā'-hi'-ki	Festival at the start of the year that includes contests and games.
Makali'i	Mā'-kā'-li'-i	Group of 7 stars in a cluster in the constellation Taurus. Hawaiian name for the Pleiades.
Makuahine	mā-koo-ah-heeneh	Mother
Makuakāne	mā-koo-ah-kāhneh	Father
Mano	mā-nōh	Shark
Malo	mā-lōh	Loin cloth
ma'o hau hele	Mā'-ō hā'u hē'le	Bright yellow hibiscus flower found on a large ten-foot plant, Hawaii state flower.
Manu	mā-nū	Bird
Matu	mā'-tū	A fictitious name made up to represent an abbreviated version of the name Oromatua.
Moana	moh-ah-nah	Deep open ocean
Mokomoko	mō'-kō-mō'-kō	Bare fist boxing where the combatants trade unguarded blows till one submits.
Na Hiku	nā' hē'-kū	The seven stars of the Big Dipper constellation.
Nani	n ā'-ni	Supremely beautiful.
Niho palaoa	ni'hō pā'-lā'-ō-a	A royal neck ornament worn only by the king. It was often made of whale tooth carved into a hook-shape suspended by a thick cord of woven human hair.
Noa	nō-ā'	A person's name which means constantly burning as in an unquenchable fire.
'O 'o ihe	oh oh I'-h ê'	Wooden throwing spear.
O'o	oh oh	Wooden digging implements typically curved on one end.
Oama	o-wa'-ma	A baitfish that is 4 to 5 inches in length that comes in shore in large schools.

Olonā	o'-lo-nā	An extremely strong and flexible flaxen cord made from a shrub 4 to 8 feet high that is prized for its durability.
<i>Ono</i>	o'-no	A large silver fish very much like a king mackerel but bigger.
Oromatua	or-oh-mā'-tū	Tahitian disembodied spirits of evil.
Pau hana	pow ha-nah	Having finished work (slang).
Pikake	Pī-kā'-ke	Pikake is one of Hawaii's most popular lei plants. This kind of jasmine is known for its sweet scent and small white flower.
Pili	pee-lee	A long stem grass native to Hawaii often used to cover thatched huts.
Pohaku	pōh-hah-koo	Typically, a smooth stone used often in mashing poi.
Poi	pō-i	Smooth paste made from baked kalo root.
Poi dog	pō-i dog	An extinct dog used by native Hawaiians as a spiritual protector of children, a pet and as a source of food.
Puhala	pu-ha'-la	An indigenous tree native to Hawaii, used for food, clothing, and as a building material that reaches a height of 15 to 20 feet.
Puhi	poo-hee	Eel
Wa`a	wā'ā	An outrigger canoe typically made of hardwood.
Wa`a kaulua	wā'ā kā'u-lū'a	Double-hulled canoe.