

Glossary of Common Hawaiian Vocabulary

Commonly Used Words in Hawaiian

HAWAIIAN WORD	MEANING			
ʻaʻā	A type of sharp jagged lava rock (in contrast to pāhoehoe)			
'ae	Yes; to say yes			
ahupua'a	Land division usually extending from the uplands to the sea			
ʻāina	Land, earth; especially Hawaiian ancestral land			
akamai	Smart, clever, intelligent			
akua	God, goddess			
ala	Path, road, trail			
ali'i	Chief, chiefess, noble; royal, aristocratic			
aloha	Love, affection; greeting, salutation; Hello! Good-bye!			
'a'ole	No, not			
ʻauʻau	To bathe			
'aumakua	Ancestral spirit, family or personal god (unique singular form)			
'aumākua	Family or personal gods (unique plural form)			
hālau	Traditional hula school; long house for canoes			
hale	House, building			
hana	Work, job, labor			
hānai	A child adopted according to Hawaiian traditions; to raise, rear, feed,			
	adopt			
haole	A non-Native Hawaiian, especially those of Caucasian ancestry (a			
	sensitive word, however, not derogatory)			
hapa	Part, half; a reference to those of mixed ancestry			
hapa haole	A person of mixed Native Hawaiian and Caucasian ancestry; also a type of			
	music mixing Hawaiian and English lyrics			
heiau	Pre-Christian place of worship			
hele	To go			
hoaaloha	Friend, companion			
hoʻolauleʻa	Celebration			
hōʻike	To show; a show			
hōkū	Star			
holoholo	To travel around for enjoyment; also used as a reference for fishing			
honu	Turtle			
hula	The dance of Hawai'i			
hula 'auana	Modern hula; informal without ceremony or offering; accompanied by			
	singing and the playing of stringed instruments such as the 'ukulele			
hula kahiko	Traditional hula, performed to chants and accompanied by percussion			
	instruments			
hulihuli	Rotisserie or "end-over-end," as in chicken cooked this way			
humuhumunukunukuāpua'a	The State fish; a type of triggerfish			



i'a	Fish or any marine animal, as eel, oyster, crab, whale			
imu	An underground oven, as often seen at lū'au			
kahakō	A macron indicating a long vowel sound in Hawaiian language			
kahu	Guardian, caretaker; pastor			
kai	Sea, sea water; seaward direction			
kālā	Money, dollar			
kama'āina	Native-born; acquainted, familiar; commonly refers to a long-time			
	resident of Hawai'i			
kamali'i	Little children			
kāne	Male			
kanikapila	A Pidgin reference to a musical jam session (literally in Hawaiian "let the			
	instruments sound")			
kapa	A blanket including quilts; often used in Hawai'i Creole English to refer to			
	bark cloth made from wauke or māmaki plants			
kapu	Sacred, taboo, forbidden; no trespassing			
keiki	Child, offspring			
Kepanī	A person of Japanese ancestry			
koa	Warrior; a native tree with wood used to build canoes and other valuable			
	items			
kōkua	Help, aid, assistance, relief			
kolohe	Mischievous, naughty			
kuleana	Responsibility; privilege; a traditional land holdings of Native Hawaiians			
kumu	Teacher			
kupuna	Grandparent, ancestor (unique singular form)			
kūpuna	Grandparents, ancestors (unique singular form)			
lānai	Porch, patio, or balcony			
lani	Sky, the heavens; also used to refer to <i>ali'i</i> (chiefs)			
laulima	Cooperation			
lei	Flowers, leaves, shells, or feathers that are strung and/or entwined and			
1 /	given as a symbol of affection			
loʻi	Taro patch; irrigated terrace, especially for taro			
lōkahi	Unity, agreement, harmony			
lū'au	Hawaiian feast; edible young leaves of the taro plant			
ma'ema'e	Clean, pure, attractive, chaste; cleanliness, purity			
mahalo	Thanks, gratitude, respect			
maika'i	Excellent			
ma kai	Toward the ocean, towards the sea			
makana	A gift, present			
makua	Parent, any relative of the parents' generation (unique singular form)			
mākua	Parents, any relatives of the parents' generation (unique plural form)			
mālama	To take care of, preserve, protect, maintain			
malihini	A newcomer, visitor; new, unfamiliar, of foreign origin			
mana'o	Thought, idea, belief, opinion			
manapua	Chinese pork bun (derived from mea'ono pua'a meaning "pork cake")			
manini	A type of fish; also a slang term for stingy and small			
manō	Shark			
	Ondriv			



manu	Bird					
manuahi	Free, gratis					
ma uka	Inland, upland, toward the mountains					
mele	Chant or melodic song for <i>hula</i> dancing; poem, poetry					
menehune	In Hawaiian oral literature, a race of small people who are believed to					
	work during the night building roads, fishponds, and temples					
moana	Ocean					
moku	A district of an island; a small offshore island; also; poetic reference to					
	large islands					
moʻo	Lizard; supernatural dragon-like water spirit					
moʻopuna	Grandchild					
nalu	Wave, surf					
nani	Beautiful, pretty					
niu	Coconut					
nui	Big, large, great, or important					
'ohana	Family, kin group, relative					
'okina	Symbol representing the glottal stop in Hawaiian language; only used in					
OKIIIa	front of vowels					
ʻōlelo						
ʻōlelo paʻiʻai	Language, speech; to speak, say, tell, converse; oral, verbal Hawaiian for "Pidgin," the language linguists call Hawai'i Creole English;					
olelo pa i ai	also the broken Hawaiian from which Pidgin developed					
oli	Chant; especially with prolonged phrases chanted in one breath					
ono						
'ono	A type of fish					
'ōpala	Delicious, tasty, savory; to relish, crave					
ʻōpū	Garbage, trash					
pāhoehoe	Stomach, abdomen					
Pākē	Smooth, ropey lava (in contrast to $'a'\bar{a}$)					
	A person of Chinese ancestry					
pali	Cliff, a steep hill or slope					
paniolo	Hawaiian cowboy					
pau	Finished, ended, all done					
pilikia	Troubles, nuisance, difficulty					
Pilipino	A person of Filipino ancestry					
pōhaku	Stone, rock					
pōmaika`i	Good fortune, blessing					
pū	Conch shell instrument similar to a trumpet					
pua'a	Pig, boar					
Pukikī	A person of Portuguese ancestry					
pule	Prayer, incantation, blessing, grace; to pray, worship, ask for a blessing					
pūpū	Mollusk, shell					
uʻi	Handsome, pretty, beautiful					
wa'a	Canoe					
wahine	Female, woman, lady (unique singular form)					
wāhine	Females, women, ladies (unique plural form)					
wai	Water, usually fresh water					
wikiwiki	Fast or speedy					



Common Hawaiian Phrases

HAWAIIAN PHRASE	MEANING		
Aloha	Hello, goodbye, love		
A hui hou	Unit we meet again, goodbye		
Aloha Kakahiaka	Good morning		
Aloha 'auinalā	Good afternoon		
Aloha ahiahi	Good evening		
Aloha 'āina	Love of the land; demonstrated through nurturing and care		
Aloha au iā 'oe	I love you (referring to you singular)		
Aloha nui loa	Very much love		
Pehea 'oe?	How are you?		
Maika'i nō au	I am fine		
Mahalo	Thank you		
Mahalo nui loa	Thank you very much		
'A'ole pilikia	You're welcome, no problem		
E komo mai	Welcome! Enter		
Hana hou	Encore, do it again		
Hau'oli	Happy, glad, joy		
Hauʻoli Lā Hānau	Happy Birthday		
Hauʻoli Makahiki Hou	Happy New Year		
Mele Kalikimaka	Merry Christmas		
Mele Kalikimaka a Hauʻoli Makahiki Hou	Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year		

Hawaiian Foods

HAWAIIAN FOOD	DESCRIPTION				
haupia	A dessert similar to jello made with coconut milk				
kalo	Taro, a kind of aroid cultivated for food				
kālua pig	Pork cooked in an imu (underground oven)				
laulau	A traditional Hawaiian dish containing pork, beef, salted				
	fish, and taro leaves, which is wrapped in $t\bar{t}$ leaves and is				
	either cooked in an imu or steamed				
limu	Seaweed				
lomi salmon	A Hawaiian dish made of tomatoes, onions, and salmon				
lū'au	The edible leaves of the taro plant as used in laulau and in				
	squid lū'au				
pa'i'ai	Poi in its undiluted form				
poi	The Hawaiian staple food; made from cooked taro,				
	pounded into pa'i'ai, then thinned with water				
poke	A Hawaiian dish made of raw cubed fish and seasonings;				
	eaten as an appetizer				
рūрū	Snacks, appetizers, hors d'oeuvres				
squid lū'au	A dish made from octopus (called "squid" in Pidgin),				
	coconut milk, and <i>lū'au</i> (taro leaves).				



Major Airport Cities

ISLAND	AIRPORT CITY		
Oʻahu	Honolulu (HNL)		
Maui	Kahului (OGG)		
Hawai'i	Hilo (ITO), Kona (KOA)		
Kaua'i	Līhu'e (LIH)		
Molokaʻi	Hoʻolehua (MKK)		
Lāna'i	Lāna'i City (LNY)		

Hawaiian Channels

CHANNEL NAME	LOCATED BETWEEN		
'Alenuihāhā	Hawai'i Island and Maui		
'Alalākeiki	Kahoʻolawe and Maui		
'Au'au	Lāna'i and Maui		
Pailolo	Moloka'i and Maui		
Kalohi	Lāna'i and Moloka'i		
Kaiwi (Moloka'i Channel)	Oʻahu and Molokaʻi		
Kaulakahi	Ni'ihau and Kaua'i		
Kaʻieʻie Waho	Kauaʻi and Oʻahu		

Ali'i Names

ALI'I	MONARCH		
Pai'ea	Kamehameha I		
Liholiho	Kamehameha II		
Kauikeaouli	Kamehameha III		
Alexander Liholiho	Kamehameha IV		
Lot Kapuāiwa	Kamehameha V		
William Charles Lunalilo	King Lunalilo		
David Kalākaua	King Kalākaua		
Lydia Kamaka'eha	Queen Lili'uokalani		

Basic Numerical Terms

NUMBER	HAWAIIAN TERM			
One	'Ekahi			
Two	'Elua			
Three	'Ekolu			
Four	'Ehā			
Five	'Elima			
Six	'Eono			
Seven	'Ehiku			
Eight	'Ewalu			
Nine	'Eiwa			
Ten	'Umi			

Calendar Terms

DAY	HAWAIIAN TERM		
Sunday	Lāpule		
Monday	Po'akahi		
Tuesday	Po'alua		
Wednesday	Po'akolu		
Thursday	Po'ahā		
Friday	Po'alima		
Saturday	Po'aono		

MONTH	HAWAIIAN TERM			
January	Ianuali			
February	Pepeluali			
March	Malaki			
April	'Apelila			
May	Mei			
June	lune			
July	Iulai			
August	'Aukake			
September	Kepakemapa			
October	'Okakopa			
November	Nowemapa			
December	Kekemapa			



General Island Place Names

HAWAI'I	KAHO'OLAWE	MAUI	LĀNA'I	MOLOKA'I	O'AHU	KAUAʻI	NI'IHAU
Hilo	Hakioawa	Hāna	Kānepu'u	Hoʻolehua	Honolulu	Hanalei	Keawanui
Kohala	Kanapou	ʻĪao	Kaunolū	Kalaupapa	Kailua	Kapa'a	Ki'eki'e
Ka'ū	Kaulana	Kahului	Kō'ele	Kaunakakai	Waikīkī	Kekaha	Pāhau
Puakō	Kūheia	Lahaina	Mānele	Mo'omomi	Hale'iwa	Līhu'e	Pu'uwai

Also Known As

HAWAIIAN NAME	ALSO KNOWN AS	ISLAND
		Hawai'i
Mokuola	Coconut Island	
		Maui
'Ohe'o	Seven Sacred Pools	
		Lāna'i
Kaiolohia	Shipwreck Beach	
Keahiakawelo (The Fire of Kawelo)	Garden of the Gods	
		Moloka'i
Kumimi	20 Mile Beach	
		Oʻahu
'Ehukai	Pipeline	
Lē'ahi	Diamond Head	
Mānana	Rabbit Island	
Mokoli'i Island	Chinaman's Hat	
Mokuʻumeʻume	Ford Island	
		Kaua'i
Makana	Bali Hai	