

A photograph of a coconut grove. In the foreground and middle ground, numerous coconut husks are scattered on the dark, mulched ground. Several young coconut plants with vibrant green, fan-shaped leaves and thin, light-colored trunks are growing from the ground. The background is filled with more coconut plants and husks, creating a dense, natural setting. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

MIKI'AI
SERIES

MAKAHIKI

THE SEASON OF LONO

***Kāpeku ka leo o ke kai, 'o ho'oilō ka malama.
When the voice of the sea is harsh, the winter
months have come.***

'Ōlelo No'eau, #1536

***Pulu 'elo i ka ua o ka ho'oilō
Drenched by winter's rain***

'Ōlelo No'eau, #2738



Understanding seasons from a Hawaiian perspective, it is first important to know that there are two seasons in Hawai'i; Kau, the dry season, and Ho'oilō, the wet season. Ho'oilō brings rough seas, heavy rains, and shorter days. Kau brings calm seas, extreme heat, and shorter nights. Kau season falls between the end of March to the end of October, while Ho'oilō falls between the end of October and the end of March. The transition from Kau to Ho'oilō marks the change from the season of Kū to the season of Lono, influencing a shift in focus and perspective.

With the rising of Makali'i (the Pleiades) in Hawaiian skies (November 17th) island mindfulness anticipates the rising of the first moon after Makali'i appears. This signals the four-month season of Makahiki. Makahiki is our Hawaiian "new year" honoring the time of rains, growing things, and the abundance manifested by the presence of our beloved deity of growing abundance, Lono.

These four months of Makahiki are a time of gratitude and giving thanks. A time of celebration, hula, games, and feasting. This is a time to make amends, unify family, and listen to kūpuna. This is 'ohana time. This is not a time of war or indiscretions—this is a time for peace and unity.

Many Hawaiians and communities throughout the Pacific continue to practice customary rituals tied to the season of Makahiki. Hawaiians and people who practice a Hawaiian code of conduct, understand the importance of this time of renewal and gratitude for the gifts of our 'āina and the work of communities.

Please, take these thoughts; share them, and live them with family and friends. Join our Hawaiian and Polynesian communities as we lift our spirits to celebrate this time of gratitude.

LONOIKAMAKAHIKI!

— Native Books, Nā Mea Hawai'i, & Pu'uhonua Society



Makahiki Today

Today, Hawaiians and many other people celebrate Makahiki season by gathering, feasting, and playing as a collective. Traditionally during Makahiki season, Kānaka 'Ōiwi played kōnane, 'ō'ō'ihe, haka moa, and more. Now, during Makahiki season, gathering and competing in games of mental strength and skill are played by all family members together.

Makahiki in Palehua

On the island of O'ahu, on the moku (district) of Ewa, on the mountain of Palehua, a "Hawaiian village" celebrates the beginning of Makahiki with offerings, chants, dance, music, food, and laughter. Manulani Aluli Meyer—an educator, philosopher, and kālai pōhaku—creates a loving and spiritual space for beloveds and community to celebrate and honor the season of gratitude and abundance. Within this space, kānaka and kama'āina are welcomed with aloha and encouraged to express their gratitude for all that Lono is and all that he brings.

Looks like offerings of kalo (taro), niu (coconut), and lā'i (ti-leaf) on the lele (altar). Smells like your favorite Auntie cooking up a feast for over 20 people. Sounds like rain falling on a tin roof as the voices of our kūpuna are heard through chants. Taste like the best array of food made with vegetables from your backyard. And feels like your kūpuna took you on a walk down the path of peace and prosperity.

Makahiki with Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui

On the island of Maui, in the moku of Kahului the University of Hawai'i Maui College (UHMC) hosts the annual wehena (opening) Makahiki ceremony for Ke Kula Kaiapuni (Hawaiian Immersion Program). Hundreds of students gather from different districts and grade levels to participate. From preschoolers to soon-to-be graduating seniors, and now Hawaiian language and Hawaiian studies students from UHMC, Makahiki with Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui has grown. Over the past two decades, Makahiki has become a ritual for Ke Kula Kaiapuni and a time of offering, celebration, and festivities.

Prior to opening and closing ceremonies, kumu (teachers) practice oli Makahiki with their haumāna (students) to properly educate them on how best to offer thanks and gratitude to Lono. These oli talk about the different kino lau (forms) of Lono and how these forms are manifested within nature, influencing how we perceive the world around us.

Looks like students, teachers, and parents unifying with intention to honor the practices of kānaka 'ōiwi. Smells like the reminisce of grass on your shirt after playing uma. Sounds like hundreds of voices in unison. Taste like refreshing wai, after along day in the sun. And feels like your kūpuna shared where we came from, and how much farther we can go...when we unite.



What does your Makahiki look, smell, sound, taste, and feel like? We'd love to hear your experience! Share a photo of your poem with us on our Instagram @nativebookshi and receive a special makana Makahiki.

*Hui aku, hui mai, hui kalo me ka nāwao.
Mixed there, mixed here, mixed all together
are the cultivated and the wild taros.*

‘Ōlelo No‘eau, #1127

Pepa Kala Lo‘i Kalo

Illustration provided by the
always generous, creative
champion Solomon Enos





COLOR | CUT | FRAME



Nā Oli Makahiki

On the following page are two oli (chants), commonly used during the opening and closing Makahiki ceremonies honoring Lono. If you find yourself going to a Makahiki ceremony, bring this Miki'ai booklet with you! We encourage you to use it as a resource when learning about or participating in Makahiki season.

Use this QR code to the right to listen to both Makahiki chants and practice along!



<https://qrco.de/bdZMwK>

'O Lono 'oe

'O Lono 'oe
he ua la he ua
he ua pi'i mai
noenoe hālau
hālau loa o Lono
'o Lono 'oe
Pā'ā'ā nā pali
i ka hana a Ikuwā
pōhā kō'ele'ele
a Welehū
ka mālama noho i Makali'i
Li'ilii' i ka hana
aia a 'e'eu
he 'eu no ka lā hiki
hiki mai ka lani
nāuweuwe ka hōnua
(I) ka hana ke 'ōla'i nui
moe pono 'ole ko'u pō
nā niho 'ai kalakala
ka hana a ka Niuhi
a mau i ke kai loa
he loa o ka hikina
a ua noa
a ua noa e

'O wahi mai e Lono

'O wahi 'o luna
'O wahi 'o lalo
'O wahi ka uka
'O wahi ke kai ē

You are Lono

*You are Lono
A rain, a rain
A rain travels inland
Covering the hālau in mist
The long hālau of Lono
Listen!
The cliffs are stunned
By the clamor of 'Ikuā
A month that breaks out in storm
And then the month Welehu
Takes up residence in Makali'i
Little work can be done
Unless one is bestirred
It is a prank of the coming day
The royal one approaches
The earth trembles
The work of the terrible earthquake
My nights are sleepless
Because of teeth that tear into food
The work of the man-eating shark
Ever-burning in the vast ocean
Long is the coming
Until all is free, is free*

Break through, O Lono

*Break through above
Break through below
on the uplands
On the sea shores*

Hala ka ho‘oilo; ua pau ka ua.
Winter is gone, the rain has ceased.

‘Ōlelo No‘eau, #423

Hala nā lā ‘ino o ka ho‘oilo.
Gone are the stormy days of winter.

‘Ōlelo No‘eau, #427

He Mana‘o, He Aloha...

Makahiki Across the Pae ‘Āina

From Hawai‘i island to Ni‘ihau, Makahiki is celebrated throughout Ka Pae ‘Āina o Hawai‘i (Hawaiian Archipelago).

Please share a family or community Makahiki story. We want to continually grow our knowledge and share what we learn, together with each other. Makahiki is a time to honor and show gratitude for our deep relationship with ‘āina momona. Send stories to lihau@nativebookshawaii.org.

Lonoikamakahiki, Lonoikamakahiki,
Lonoikamakahiki!

Moku o Keawe • Maui • Moloka‘i • Lāna‘i •
O‘ahu • Kaua‘i • Ni‘ihau

MIKI'AI SERIES

LONOIKAMAKAHIKI

The Season of Lono

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Miki'ai, a small finger of poi, is the metaphor that inspired this Native Books series, which offers readers a little taste of Hawaiian culture, history, and practices. Abundant and 'ono, we hope that Miki'ai Series nourishes your mind and offers your spirit a sense of curiosity in learning more about this 'āina. E ola mau ka Lāhui Hawai'i!

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