

Glossary of Hawaiian Terms

‘aha ali‘i	council of chiefs
ahu	boundary marker
ahupua‘a	basic local community land division, under the control of a lesser chief known as an ali‘i ai ahupua‘a
‘āina	land in general
ai noa	‘free eating’ – eating to deliberately break and challenge traditional food kapu practised by Ka‘ahumanu and her followers in 1819
akua	a god, spirit or deity
ali‘i	chief
ali‘i ‘ai ahupua‘a	chief of the basic local community
ali‘i ‘ai moku	district chief
ali‘i akua	god king, term reserved for chiefs of the highest rank, especially pi‘o rank
ali‘i nui	great chief, paramount chief of a discrete, unified polity, also known as a mō‘ī
‘auhau	tax
‘aumakua	ancestral spirits and deities
‘awa	kava (<i>Piper methysticum</i>), the root of which was used to make a psychoactive beverage consumed by chiefs
haku‘āina	a landlord, most typically a konohiki or ali‘i ‘ai ahupua‘a level lesser chief

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hale nauā	the house in which genealogical specialists gathered to ascertain the pedigrees of chiefs for decisions on their eligibility to join paramount chief's households
hanai	adopted child
haole	foreigners
heiau	temple
ho'okupu	tribute
ho'omana	to worship, to empower through worship
hula	traditional dance in various forms
ihe	a short spear measuring from two to 2.5 metres, thrown or used to thrust
ilāmuku	officer of the paramount chief's household responsible for maintaining the kapu associated with that household
‘ili; ‘ili lele	subdivision of an ahupua‘a
‘ili kūpono	a segment of the ‘ili land division directly controlled by the paramount chief rather than the ahupu‘a chief, the tribute from which was reserved for the paramount chief
ka‘a-kaua	sub-commanders within each retinue
kāhili	fly whisks or standards; symbols of chiefly rank
kahului	crescent formation with horns pointing towards the enemy
kahuna	person with specialist knowledge of valued skills, usually associated with favour from the gods such as canoe makers, herbal medicine specialists and priests
kahuna kuni	sorcery priests
kahuna nui	high priest
kahuna pule	priest, religious specialist
kalaimoku	war councillor, senior military adviser to rulers

kalana	subdivision of a moku (district)
kalo	taro (<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>)
kanaka	commoners recruited by ali'i for their martial prowess
Kānaka Maoli	indigenous Hawaiians
kanaka no lua kaua	ali'i and maka'āinana who lived with the chief and did not desert him in battle
kapa	tapa, cloth made from the bark of the wauke (paper mulberry plant, <i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>)
kapu	permanent or temporary sacred status through connection to the gods
kapu moe	prostrating taboo requiring commoners and lower ranked chiefs to lie prostrate in the presence of a high-status sacred chief
kaukau ali'i	collective name for lesser grades of chiefs
kāula	prophet
kāuwa	underclass enslaved by their enemies or descended from other kāuwa. Used for human sacrifices at luakini heiau (temples)
ko'a	a fishing shrine dedicated to the god Kū'ula
kō'ele	land division worked by commoners, all the produce of which was reserved for the benefit of the konohiki and ali'i
konohiki	land manager for an ahupua'a land unit on behalf of the ali'i 'ai ahupua'a (chief in charge of the ahupua'a)
kū'auhau	genealogical specialist within the paramount chief's retinue responsible for memorising the genealogies and mo'olelo of the ali'i
kuhina	governors
kukulu	straight battleline
kula	dryland cultivation areas especially associated with 'uala (sweet potato) cultivation

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kupuna	elder, ancestor
lo‘i	irrigated pond-field for growing taro
loko i‘a (loko, loko kuapā)	fishpond on reef flat enclosed by a stone wall
luakini heiau	temple where human sacrifice was offered
luakini kaua	temple dedicated to the war god Kū
luakini po‘okanaka	temple where human sacrifice was offered
māhele	the land reform process from 1846 to 1855 which replaced traditional landholding procedures with Western-style individual tenure parcels held by the Hawaiian Crown, the government, and individuals
maka‘āinana	commoner majority below the chiefly classes
makahiki	four month, rainy season period of ritual, celebrations, and chiefly tax collection commencing when Pleiades became visible in November, and dedicated to Lono, the god of rain-fed agriculture
makawalu	battle formation of small flexible groups for broken terrain
mālama	care for, management of resources or people
malo	loincloth
mana	signs of the gods’ favour manifest in good fortune to people eliciting respectful treatment of individuals
moemoe	night attacks
moe-pu	ali‘i’s chosen companions in death
mō‘ī	paramount chief, see also ali‘i nui
moku	polities
mo‘o	a land unit subdivision of an ‘ili land unit
mo‘okū‘ahuhau	genealogical heritage
mo‘olelo	traditional historical account
naha	one of the highest chiefly ranks

nī‘aupi‘o (Pi‘o)	close consanguineous marriage between high-status chiefs resulting in offspring of the most sacred rank, the ali‘i akua or ali‘i kapu
noa	temporarily or permanently free of kapu (sacred status) by separation from the divine
‘okana (also known as poko)	a subdistrict incorporating several ahupua‘a
pahoa	a hardwood dagger measuring up to 60 centimetres
pahupū	literally, cut in half, name given to special group of Maui warriors in the era of Kahekili who tattooed half of their body with black dye
pa‘i‘ai	storable form of taro produced by steaming, mashing and pressing taro corm into hard dry cakes
palaoa pae	ruler’s right to whalebone washed up on shore
peleleu	new larger, sturdy canoe design commissioned by Kamehameha after loss of much of his fleet between O‘ahu and Kaua‘i in 1796
pikoi	used as a throwing club to bring down fleeing enemy
poi	cooked and mashed corm of taro with water added
poi-po	ambushes
poko (also known as ‘okana)	a subdistrict incorporating several ahupua‘a
polulu	a long hardwood pike of up to six metres
pua‘a	pig
pukaua	commander in chief
pu‘uhonua	place of refuge and safety in times of conflict
pu‘uku nui	chief treasurer
toa	warrior
‘uala	sweet potato (<i>Ipomoea batatas</i>)
wahine	a woman, female

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waiwai	literally plentiful water, applied to wealth in goods or property
wohi	high chiefly rank exempt from the prostrating tapu

This text is taken from *Transforming Hawai'i: Balancing Coercion and Consent in Eighteenth-Century Kānaka Maoli Statecraft*, by Paul D'Arcy, published 2018 by ANU Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.