



# Nā Mea 'Ike 'Ia (NMII)



## WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

E mālama 'ia nā pono o ka 'āina e na 'ōpio. (The traditions of the land are perpetuated by its youth.)

**Nā Mea 'Ike 'Ia (NMII)** - The Things Experienced, is a 501(c)3 charitable organization dedicated to youth development through a structured Native Hawaiian approach, since February 24, 2017, EIN # 82-0746141.

### **Ke Kumu (Purpose)**

Conduct charitable activities for the purposes of youth leadership development, community-based cultural enrichment, and career pathway development.

### **Ka Huaka'i (Mission)**

Ho'omōhala nā opio loa'a Kūpono Ke Ola.

Impact the youth to achieve personal Excellence in Life - through programs of leadership development, Native Hawaiian culture, Honor Guard activities, community service, and career pathway development.

## IT STARTS WITH THE WILL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**Community - E hahai i ke ala o ka hana pa'akikī. (Pursue the path of challenging work.)**

One of our main causes here at na mea ike ia is Volunteer Opportunities, an issue that touches many lives, particularly our youth. With caring adults our youth can explore their passions and achieve personal excellence.

## A FOUNDATION OF HAWAIIAN CULTURE AND UNIVERSAL VALUES

**Culture - E ho'omaika'i kākou e like me ko kākou mau kūpuna me ke kapukapu a me ka ha'aeo. (Let us celebrate as did our ancestors of long ago.)**

Waiola Church has allowed for the Royal Hawaiian Guard to conduct Honor Guard activities at the Waine'e Royal Tombs. It is our privilege to conduct protocols in honor of and share the story of sacred high chiefess and Queen Mother Keōpūolani.

## ACTIVITIES DESIGNED FOR YOUTH TO THRIVE!

**Competition - Loa'a ka lanakila no ka hana pa'akikī (Victory is achieved through hard work.)**

Providing meaningful competition for youth involved in the discipline of military-style drill to demonstrate their skills, knowledge, abilities, leadership, and teamwork and showcase their hard work is a primary goal between Nā Mea 'Ike 'Ia and HMSU (Hawai'i Multiple Schools Unit, Hawai'i's JROTC command and liaison to the DOE).

## LESSONS TO ACHIEVE PERSONAL EXCELLENCE

**Civility - 'A'ohe pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi. (All wisdom is not taught in your school.)**

A key goal is to provide a neutral ground that everyone in Hawai'i may come to learn and experience Aloha, history, and culture.

## CONTACT US!

**Honolulu Office:** 55 Merchant St, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
**Maui Mail:** 153 E. Kamehameha Ave STE 104 #223, Kahului, HI 96732

**Website:** <https://www.hi-nmii.org>  
**Email:** [staff@hi-nmii.org](mailto:staff@hi-nmii.org)  
**Phone:** 833-RHGuard (744-8273)

# Hawaiian Islands Symbolism and Meanings

**O'AHU** - The Gathering Place  
 Color: Golden Yellow  
 Flower: Pua 'ilima from the native dodder shrubs (*Sida fallax*).

**MOLOKAI** - The Friendly Isle  
 Color: Green  
 Flower: Pua kukui, also known as the candlenut tree (*Aleurites moluccana*), designated as the official lei material.

**MAUI** - The Valley Isle  
 Color: Pink  
 Flower: Lokelani, also known as damask rose (*Rosa damascena*).

**KAUAI** - Garden Isle  
 Color: Purple  
 Flower: Mokihana from the native tree (*Pelea anisata*) designated as the official lei material.

**LANAI** - The Pineapple Isle  
 Color: Orange  
 Flower: Kauna'oa, also known as the native dodder (*Cuscuta sandwichiana*), designated as the official lei material.

**NI'HAU** - The Forbidden Isle  
 Color: White  
 Flower: Pā pā, also known as the Momi, Laiki, and Kahelelani, designated as the official lei material.

**KAHOOLAWE** - Sacred Island of Kanaloa  
 Color: Gray  
 Flower: Hinahina ornative heliotrope (*Heliotropium anomalum*, var. *argenteum*) designated as the official lei material.

**HAWAII** - The Orchid Isle  
 Color: Red  
 Flower: 'Ōhi'a lehua (*Metrosideros macropus* M. *collina*), also known as Pua lehuais.

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
 Bird: Nene, also known as the Hawaiian goose  
 Dance: Hula  
 Fish: Humuhumunukunukuapua'a, also known as the rectangular trigger fish or Hawaiian trigger fish (*Rhinecanthus rectangulus*)  
 Flower: Pua Aloalo, or Ma'o-hau-hele (*Hibiscus brackenridgei*)  
 Individual / Team sport: Surfing / Outrigger canoe paddling  
 Tree: Kukui tree (*Aleurites Moluccana*)  
 Plant: Kalo (*Colocasia esculenta*), Hawaiian word for taro  
 Gem: Black coral  
 Insect: Pulelehua, also known as the Kamehameha butterfly (*Vanessa tameamea*)

Approved By:



Nā Mea Ike Ia



# The Aloha Spirit

Aloha is the most spoken Hawaiian word. In the Hawaiian language, it can mean hello or goodbye. It also means love and affection. Aloha is a Hawaiian symbol. Its meaning goes beyond any definition that you may find in the dictionaries. In Hawai'i you hear Aloha all the time, treat others with it and are treated likewise with it.

Aloha literally means "the presence of breath" or "the breath of life." It comes from "Alo," meaning presence, front and face, and "ha," meaning breath. Aloha is a way of living and treating each other with love and respect. Its deep meaning starts by teaching ourselves to love our own beings first and afterwards to spread the love to others. Aloha is living in harmony. When you live the Spirit of Aloha, you create positive feelings and thoughts which are never gone. They exist in space, multiply and spread over to others.

## The Spirit of Aloha as Law

Aloha Spirit is considered a state "law." Although the word law sounds too strong and strict, Aloha Spirit is not a type of law that will get you in trouble if you break it. Its main purpose is to serve as a reminder to government officials to treat people with deep care and respect while they perform their duties just like their ancestors did. Aloha Spirit is more a lesson than a law. By learning and applying this lesson to real life, government officials can contribute to a better world, a world filled with Aloha.

## Definition of Aloha Spirit State Law

[§5-7.5] "Aloha Spirit."

(a) "Aloha Spirit" is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. It brings each person to the self. Each person must think and emote good feelings to others. In the contemplation and presence of the life force, "Aloha," the following unuhi laula loa may be used:

"Akahai," meaning kindness, to be expressed with tenderness.

"Lokahi," meaning unity, to be expressed with harmony.

"Oluolu," meaning agreeable, to be expressed with pleasantness.

"Haahaa," meaning humility, to be expressed with modesty.

"Ahonui," meaning patience, to be expressed with perseverance.

*Live Your Life and Impact the Lives of Others with Aloha*

*Approved By:*



*Nā Mea 'Ike 'Ia*



# Hawaiian History, Culture, and Beliefs

What is written here is to provide a general understanding of the Hawaiian way of life from a local perspective with the respectful efforts to frame a native Hawaiian point of view. It is our hope that through this sharing of history, culture, and facts that we can all work to keep the spirit of Aloha alive.

## Hawaiian or Local?

To call yourself “Hawaiian” or “kanaka māoli” in Hawai’i, it is understood that you are an aboriginal descendant from Hawai’i prior to Capt. Cook’s arrival in 1778. If you live in Hawai’i but are not aboriginal you are considered local or “kama’āina”.

## Understanding Hawaiian History

There is much misinformation regarding Hawai’i’s history. Ultimately, we show respect to everyone’s story as Hawaiian history is being shaped with new discoveries in translated texts and archaeology. In short, Dr. Ronald Williams Jr, Ph.D. Hawaiian History, sums it to this point - of all historical writings concerning Hawai’i, only 6% of sources are written in English, the other 94% is written in Hawaiian - approximately 98% of Hawai’i’s history books are based on the 6% of English sources.

## Hawai’i - A Snapshot of Time

It is our goal to provide an understanding of critical events that shaped Hawai’i. The reader is urged to learn more and understand that Hawaiians are truly hard-working, progressive, and loving people who are recovering from generations of marginalization that has had a significant negative impact on their social and economic standings.

## Timeframe and Events

<1,000	First migrations arrive in Hawai’i.
1500’s	The arrival of Pa’ao, Ali’i system, and religious governance structure “ ‘Ai Kapu ”
1778	The arrival of Capt. James Cook, use of western technology changes warfare.
1782-1810	King Kamehameha I - war of unification.
1810	The Hawaiian Kingdom established as an absolute Monarchy.
1819	King Kamehameha I passes away. Hawaiian religious way of life “ ‘Ai Kapu” abolished by King Kamehameha II and Kuhina Nui Ka’ahumanu.
1820	American Missionaries arrive in Hawai’i.
1822	The pī’āpā - Hawaiian alphabet is printed and education efforts begin.
1823	Mō’ī Wahine Keōpūolani baptized as a Christian, the rest of the monarchy and a large majority of people would follow the example.
1826	The United States signs a treaty with the Hawaiian Kingdom “indirectly recognizing Hawaiian independence” <sup>1</sup>
1831	Over 1,100 schools established in Hawai’i to promote education and literacy.
1834	Hawai’i achieves 94-95% literacy rate. <sup>2</sup>



1840	King Kamehameha III reforms kingdom to a Constitutional Monarchy <sup>3</sup> and enacts the Great Mahele or land divisions to provide for the Hawaiian people.
1843	Hawai'i recognized as an independent nation by Britain and France.
1893	The overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom by American businessmen.
1894	The Republic of Hawai'i formed.
1895	Queen Lili'uokalani forced to abdication under the threat of death.
1896	The Hawaiian language banned for use in all schools. <sup>4</sup>
1896-1936	"A Brief History of the Hawaiian People" by William Dewitt Alexander 1899 written to suppress native Hawaiian achievements, culture and identity was taught as a mandatory text in all Hawai'i public schools for over 40 years.
1898	The annexation of the Hawaiian Kingdom by the United States.
1941	Pearl Harbor attacked by Japan. Local Japanese population sent to internment camps.
1959	Statehood - Hawai'i becomes the 50th State of the Union.
1978	The Hawaiian language officially recognized by the State of Hawai'i. <sup>5</sup>
1993	The United States Joint Resolution apologizing for overthrow of Hawaiian Kingdom <sup>6</sup>

## The Language

Hawai'i is the only state in the nation to have two official languages: Hawaiian & English. The Hawaiian language is known as " 'Ōlelo Hawai'i " with the first recorded written use of the Hawaiian language found in the 1818 journal of Toketa of Bora Bora, Tahiti - a Tahitian missionary trained by the London Missionary Society in Tahiti. The language<sup>7</sup> was formally structured in 1822 by King Kamehameha II with the printing of the Hawaiian alphabet "pī'āpā".

<sup>1</sup> "Hawai'i\* - Countries - Office of the Historian." <https://history.state.gov/countries/Hawai'i> . Accessed 2 Mar. 2020.

<sup>2</sup> "King Liholiho led the Hawaiians' amazing rise to literacy in the ...." <https://apps.ksbe.edu/kaiwakiloumoku/node/606> . Accessed 2 Mar. 2020.

<sup>3</sup> "1822-1898 Kingdom + - Hawai'i Laws 1822-1959 - LibGuides ...." 30 Jul. 2019, <https://law-hawaii.libguides.com/hawaiilawsonline> . Accessed 2 Mar. 2020.

<sup>4</sup> "How The Hawaiian Language Nearly Died And Activists ...." 21 Jun. 2019, <https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2019/06/22/452551172/the-Hawaiian-language-nearly-died-a-radio-show-sparked-its-revival> . Accessed 2 Mar. 2020.

<sup>5</sup> "Hawaiian language - To-Hawaii.com." <https://www.to-hawaii.com/Hawaiian-language.php> . Accessed 2 Mar. 2020.

<sup>6</sup> "107 STAT. 1510 PUBLIC LAW 103-150—NOV. 23 ... - GovInfo." <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/STATUTE-107/pdf/STATUTE-107-Pg1510.pdf> . Accessed 2 Mar. 2020.

<sup>7</sup> "Tahitians in the early history of Hawaiian Christianity - CORE." <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/5014779.pdf> . Accessed 2 Mar. 2020.

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*Nā Mea 'Ike 'Ia*

King Kamehameha III proclaimed in 1825 “my kingdom shall be one of letters”<sup>8</sup> at this decree, the kingdom invested heavily into education establishing over 1,100 school houses with the first secondary school being Lahainaluna in 1831 at Lahaina, Māui, the original Royal Capital. Lahainaluna is distinguished as the oldest secondary school west of the rocky mountains.<sup>9</sup> Hawai‘i would proliferate the printing press technology with the first press set at Lahainaluna school. Hundreds and thousands of articles in the Hawaiian language were published over the years that are being translated to this day. By 1834, Hawai‘i was one of the most literate nations in the world with a 94-95% literacy rate in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i.

## Hawaiian Creole or “Hawaiian Pidgin”

Hawaiian pidgin evolved from the sugar industry which began in the mid 1850’s on Maui. Immigrant workers came in waves from different countries to work in the sugarcane fields. The first waves of immigration were the Chinese, Japanese and Portuguese who needed to communicate with Ha’ole (English speaking) bosses and Hawaiian locals. What developed was a blend of these languages that continued to evolve as waves of Okinawans, Puerto Ricans, Koreans and Filipinos arrived around 1900. These new languages were thrown into the mix and is today what many locals speak on a daily basis – Hawaiian pidgin.

## Understanding Hawaiian Culture

The Hawaiian culture is rooted in Aloha and ‘Āina. Simply put, a respect for all living things and a responsibility to care for the resources and people we are blessed with in our lives.

Aloha - To be face to face with the breath of life, or essentially to carry yourself in the spirit of love is at the core of Hawaiian spirituality and mindset. Aloha is that unknown feeling that most sense when they visit as it emanates as a way of life in the islands. To live Aloha is tough as it forces a person to have empathetic compassion, accept responsibility for all actions, and to make decisions rooted in love for oneself, others, and resources. A physical act of Aloha is seen when Hawaiians and other indigenous people greet each other - “honi”. In the act of honi, two people will press forehead then nose and inhale through the nostrils. This act signifies meeting face to face “Alo” and exchanging the breath of life or “Hā”. The exchange of Hā is a symbolic sharing of your spirit and your ancestry with the other. You will experience that it is common for people in Hawai‘i to greet each other with a kiss on the cheek, hug, or honi.

‘Āina - The land. The most sacred resource to the people is the land and the waters that flow to provide life to it. Hawaiians were accomplished stewards of the land where Dr. Sam Ohu Gon, Ph.D. Animal Behavior, points out in ancient times Hawaiians had a 15% footprint on their land with 100% self sufficiency...done through a system of governance known as “‘ai kapu” where Hawaiians saw themselves as connected to all living things. Today our footprint in Hawai‘i is 85% where we are only 15% self sufficient. We will have only three weeks to sustain us if all shipping to the islands were to stop.<sup>10</sup>

Aloha ‘Āina - Love for Land. The concept of Aloha ‘Āina is an ancient way of life for the Hawaiian people. This Hawaiian proverb or “‘Ōlelo No‘eau” sums up the concept - “He ali‘i ka ‘āina; he kauwā ke kanaka.” “The land is a chief; man is its servant.” ~ Mary Kawena Pukui, ... “Land has no need for man, but man needs the land and works it for a livelihood.” To Hawaiians, land provides everything needed for man to survive. It is our responsibility to care for the land so that it continues to provide those necessary resources of food, water and shelter. If we neglect the ‘āina, then the ‘āina will neglect us.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Lessons from a thousand years of island sustainability | Sam ‘Olu Gon III, PhD | TEDxMaui [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9fv\\_2XIJBk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9fv_2XIJBk)

<sup>11</sup> “He ali‘i ka ‘aina - PDF - DocMimic.” <https://docmimic.com/7z8OjflLI/he-alii-ka-aina.html> . Accessed 2 Mar. 2020.





# General Local Customs - Things You Must Do, Never Do & Never Forget

- Aloha wear is the utmost representation of Hawai'i — a clothing style with traditional Hawaiian floral prints or loose-hanging shirts, mu'umu'u dresses, and even pants for all genders. Slippers are commonly worn and acceptable in all causal wear.
- Drive with Aloha. Respect other drivers and they will respect you. Your horn is for one thing only - saying a friendly hello to another driver on the road.
- The Shaka - Everyone from keiki (children) to kupuna (elderly) uses the shaka to express friendship, gratitude, goodwill, encouragement and unity. This 100 year-old custom created by the life of Hamana Kalili creates the hand wave that spreads Aloha.
- The Lei - The gifting of a lei is appropriate on many occasions including graduations, birthdays, or retirements. If presented a lei around your neck, be respectful if it is removed by carrying on the arm or placing in a rested position on a surface (never on the ground). Never give a pregnant woman a Hawaiian Screwpine lei or a closed lei as they are bad omens for the child's health.
- Flower in the Hair - The wearing of a flower a woman's hair has symbolic meaning. A flower on the left ear means she is taken. A flower on the right says she available and searching.
- The Kiss on the Cheek - Customary greetings to families and friends in Hawai'i start with a kiss on the cheek, a custom derived from the Honi (pressing noses to each other and inhaling at the same time) and exchange of Ha (breath of life). The same greeting also applies at the end of an event to say goodbye and is considered impolite not to do so.
- The Luau is a feast of Hawaiian food, usually held outdoors and usually accompanied by Hawaiian entertainment to celebrate special occasions including graduations, weddings and birthdays. Modern day Luau can consist of traditional dances in a formal setting or on the beach with family, friends, food and music.
- 'Ohana (family) is extremely important in Hawai'i. Locals consider even those who are not blood relatives but close friends to be part of their 'Ohana. In addition, "aunty", "uncle", "tutu - grand parent" are used in place of "sir" or "ma'am" to express a feeling of inclusiveness and kinship to elders, although more often than not, there is no blood relation. You will become 'Ohana as friendship develops. Also, local kids might address their friend's parents as mom or dad as a sign of respect.
- Removing shoes in homes— shoes while in homes is rarely acceptable and are left at the door. This Japanese and Chinese custom was adopted to Hawai'i culture during the early plantation days. It shows respect to the owner of the house by keeping their home clean and not tracking dirt and germs inside.
- Aside from federal holidays, Hawai'i-State observed holidays are Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole Day (aka. Prince Kuhio Day) (March 26th, King Kamehameha I Day (June 11th) and Admissions Day (August 21st). May Day, or "Lei Day" is celebrated throughout the island and school districts throughout the month of May.
- The different cultures in Hawai'i create a melting pot of various recognized holidays. Chinese New Year's, Hinamatsuri (Girl's Day), Tango no Sekku (Boys' Day), Japanese Bon Odori Dance and the Shinnyo Lantern Floating Ceremony.

Approved By:



*Nā Mea Ike Ia*