
APPENDIX E. GLOSSARY OF HAWAIIAN TERMS USED IN THE MAUNA KEA SCIENCE RESERVE MASTER PLAN

Definitions from Mary Kawena Pukui and Samuel H. Elbert's Hawaiian Dictionary (1986)

ahu – Heap, pile, collection, mound, mass; altar, shrine, cairn.

ahupua'a – Land division usually extending from the uplands to the sea, so called because the boundary was marked by a heap (*ahu*) of stones surmounted by an image of a pig (*pua'a*), or because a pig or other tribute was laid on the alter as a tax to the chief.

ali'i – Chief, chiefess, officer, ruler, monarch, peer, headman, noble, aristocrat, king queen, commander.

aloha – Love, affections, compassion, mercy, sympathy, pity, kindness, sentiment, grace, charity.

'aumakua – Family or personal gods, deified ancestors who might assume the shape of sharks, owls, *'elepaio*, *'iwi*, mudhens, octopuses, eels, mice, rats, dogs, caterpillars, rocks, cowries, clouds, or plants. A symbiotic relationship existed; mortals did not harm or eat *'aumākua*, and *'aumākua* warned and reprimanded mortals in dreams, visions, and calls.

hōkū – Star.

ho'okupu – Tribute, tax, ceremonial gift-giving to a chief as a sign of honor and respect; to pay such tribute; church offering.

'ili – Land section, next in importance to *ahupua'a* and usually a subdivision of an *ahupua'a*.

ilina – Grave, tomb, sepulcher, cemetery, mausoleum, plot in a cemetery.

iwi – Bone; carcass (as of a chicken); core (as of a speech).

kahu – Honored attendant, guardian, nurse, keeper of *'unihipili* bones, regent, keeper, administrator, warden, caretaker, master, mistress; pastor, minister, reverend, or preacher of a church; one who has a dog, cat, pig, or other pet. According to J.S. Emerson 92:2, *kahu* “implies the most intimate and confidential relations between the god and its guardian or keeper, while the word *kahuna* suggests more of the professional relation of the priest to the community.”

kapu – Taboo, prohibition; special privilege or exemption from ordinary taboo; sacredness; prohibited, forbidden; sacred, holy, consecrated; no trespassing, keep out.

kinolau – Many forms taken by a supernatural body, as Pele, who could at will become a flame of fire, a young girl, or an old hag.

konohiki – Headman of an *ahupua'a* land division under the chief; land or fishing rights under control of the *konohiki*; such rights are sometimes called *konohiki* rights.

kupuna – Grandparent, ancestor, relative or close friend of the grandparent's generation, grandaunt, granduncle (*kūpuna* – plural of *kupuna*).

luna – Foreman, boss, leader, overseer, supervisor, headman, officer of any sort.

mana – Supernatural or divine power, mana, miraculous power.

mauna – Mountain, mountainous region; mountainous.

moku – District, island, islet, section, forest, grove, clump, severed portion, fragment, cut, laceration, scene in a play.

mokupuni – Island.

piko – 1. Navel, navel string, umbilical cord. 2. Summit or top of a hill or mountain; crest; crown of the head; crown of the hat made on a frame; tip of the ear; end of a rope; border of a land; center, as of a fishpond wall or *kōnane* board; place where a stem is attached to the leaf, as of taro.

pu'u – Any kind of protuberance from a pimple to a hill: hill, peak, cone, hump, mound, bulge, heap, pile, portion, bulk, mass, quantity, clot, bunch, knob.

'ua'u – Dark-rumped petrel, an endangered sea bird, considered by some an *'aumakua*.

wahi pana – These are sacred sites such as *heiau*, shrines, sacred *pōhaku* or stones, burial caves and graves, geographic features, and natural resources associated with deities and significant natural, cultural, spiritual or historical phenomenon or events. (Definition from Hawai'i Externalities Workbook, Hawaiian Electric Company, 1997)

The god and their disciples specified places that were sacred. The inventory of sacred places in Hawai'i includes the dwelling places of the gods, the dwelling places of venerable disciples, temples, and shrines, as well as selected observation points, cliffs, mounds, mountains, weather phenomena, forests, and volcanoes. (Edward Kanahale in Ancient Sites of O'ahu by Van James, 1991)

wao akua – A distant mountain region, believed inhabited only by spirits (*akua*); wilderness, desert.

wēkiu – Tip, top, topmost, summit.