

'Aliomanu

'Aliomanu got its name in the time of the menehune. One menehune in particular, 'A'aka who resided in Homaikawa'a located three *ahupua'a* south of 'Aliomanu. Homaikawa'a is also a name of the stream that flows through the Kealia Kai development today.

'A'aka and his friends were enjoying a *lele kawa* competition; a game where a pebble was tossed from a cliff into a pool suitable for diving. Participants would have to dive after it and try to retrieve the *'ili* before it reached the bottom.

One by one participants played and finally it was 'A'aka's turn. He made his way to the cliff's edge and dove in after his *'ili*. 'A'aka was just about to retrieve his winning pebble when a huge *manō* (shark) came into the pond brushing 'A'aka aside so that he was unable to retrieve his *'ili*. The shark's interference enraged 'A'aka and he shouted out "**Homai-ka-wa'a**", commanding his friends to bring him a canoe, giving the area its name, which is still used today.

While waiting for his canoe, he began to weave *hue hue* and other shoreline vines into a huge fish trap suitable for the shark that had interfered with the game. Once the weaving was complete and the trap ready, the menehune made *palu* (bait) to attract the shark. This was no ordinary *palu*; it was mixed with *'awa*, which is an intoxicating plant. 'A'aka pounded the *'awa* roots in to a poultice and mixed this into the *palu*.

The hunt was on. The canoe was loaded with the strongest paddlers, and the trap was baited and towed. It did not take them long before they spotted the *manō*. And soon after feeding, the shark lay drunk in the large trap 'A'aka had made. The menehune paddled north and towed the shark to an *āpapa* (reef) of the shore of 'Aliomanu Bay. Here 'A'aka and his friends lay the *manō* on the dry reef to die. 'A'aka had big plans to use the skin of the shark, but on his return to where the *manō* laid he found many birds feasting on the flesh of his prize. He quickly ran to chase the *manu* (bird) away, but instead he was attacked and scarred on his face. And this is how 'Aliomanu got its name; **Ali-o-manu** (face scar made by birds).

Source: Wichman, Frederick. 1998. *Kaua'i: Ancient Place Names and Their Stories*. University of Hawai'i Press. Honolulu, HI.