

Anahola - Puka a ka Mauna

A landmark that is well known to *kama'āina* and locals alike, is called “The Hole in the Mountain.” It is located in Mauna Kalalea, just past Anahola town. On a clear day, you can see the hole (the ceiling collapsed some time ago) if you are on the north side of the Anahola mountains traveling east on Kuhio Highway.

Some believe that the ceiling collapsed due to Hurricane 'Iniki, filling the hole with rubble. If you know where to look, it will appear like a moon crescent shape. As with many other unique landmarks, there are several legends that tell the *mo'olelo* of this place.

One *mo'olelo* is told of the very large bird called Halulu, whose nest was located on the *mauka* southern slopes of Mauna Kalalea. One day, a steady rumble caught the attention of Halulu and he became curious. He could not see where the noise was coming from, so he began to peck at the mountainside. After pecking continuously, he made a hole and was able to see through the hole. Halulu was able to see the ocean, the crashing waves that pounded against the reef before it washed up to shore. He became overwhelmed by the beauty of it all, and flew over to the *makai* side of Mauna Kalalea to live by the ocean.

Another *mo'olelo* tells of the 'iole nui (large rat) that lived somewhere beyond Moloa'a. This particular 'iole nui would come out at night, whenever 'uala (sweet potato) was in season and ripe. He would dig up the roots and ruin the *mala* (garden) that the *mahi'ai* would tend to. Soon, there was no more 'uala to eat, and the *maka'āinana* became upset. Upon trying to catch this pesky 'iole, the *kanaka* became frustrated because the 'iole was as big as a man and it could make itself invisible. One day, a visiting chief of Hawai'i Island came to Anahola and heard of the situation. He hid himself on the Kapa'a side of the mountain and waited.

As evening approached, he readied himself on a high cliff with his spear. After hours of waiting, the chief heard the 'iole approaching and threw his spear with all his might. So much *mana* went into his throw, that he struck the mountain, causing a hole. The huge rock



that was knocked out of the *puka*, fell on the *'iole* and killed it. From that moment on, the *'uala* of Anahola grew sweet, ripe and abundant.

A third story of how this *puka* in the mountain came about, tells of two famous heros. These two heros were known as, Kaweloleimakua and Kauahoa. Both were well known for their sportsmanship and agility. One day, the *kāne* challenged each other to a contest to see which one could throw his spear the farthest. Kauahoa went first and threw his spear so hard, that it created the hole in the mountain and gouged a line across the north branch of the upper side of Wailua River before coming to a stop. Kawelo threw his spear so hard that it went through the hole Kauahoa made and flew over Nawiliwili Bay before landing in the ocean. For this reason, Niumalu was given the name (the shaded coconut trees), for the spear that Kawelo threw cast its shadow on the coconut trees as it passed over.