



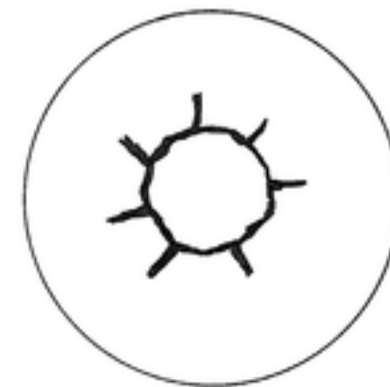
## EARTH-ENERGY MO'OLELO

### STUDENT READING 1

#### Harnessing the Sun

The legends of Māui, a trickster and a demigod, recount the amazing feats accomplished by this heroic Hawaiian figure who fished up the islands from the sea and stole the secret of fire from 'alae 'ula (mudhens). Not least among his accomplishments, however is the famous story of Māui harnessing the sun.

According to the Hawaiian *mo'olelo*, the sun's hurried path across the sky left little time for Māui's mother, Hina, to dry her *kapa* cloth. Māui made a strong noose of cord and climbed the slopes of Haleakalā where he intended to snare the sun and slow it down. He snared one of the sun's long rays and broke it off. He continued snaring rays until all the strong rays of the sun were broken off. This forced the sun to slow down so that Māui's people might use the sun's energy to make their lives easier.



#### Calabash of the Winds

Keen observers of their environments, early Hawaiians had names for the characteristic rains and winds of different areas. Some experts say that there were once more than 260 named winds on the island of Kaho'olawe alone. The island's original inhabitants knew these winds in precise detail—the valleys and cliffs where they blew, the months and times of day when they were strongest, and the nuances of their breaths and blasts, wisps and drafts, and gentle breezes.

Hawaiian *mo'olelo* about Pāka'a reveal that he inherited the Calabash of the Winds from his mother, La'amaomao. It is said that the Calabash contained the winds of all the world. Its keeper could call for their help by naming them, one by one. Pāka'a was a steward of the *ali'i* (chief) Keawenuia'umi of the island of Hawai'i. He was an attentive steward as well as an expert navigator and he gained the confidence of the *ali'i*.

But there were two navigators that were jealous of his skills and they turned the *ali'i* against Pāka'a. When Pāka'a understood that his *ali'i* no longer trusted him, he sailed away to Moloka'i. There he married and had a son.

As time went on, the *ali'i* missed the attentiveness of Pāka'a and sought to find him once again. Keawenuia'umi came looking for Pāka'a on Moloka'i with a fleet of canoes, including the navigators who had betrayed Pāka'a. When the canoes approached Moloka'i they encountered Pāka'a's son. The chief asked him if Pāka'a still lived on Moloka'i. He told him Pāka'a could be found at Ka'ula, but to wait on Moloka'i before searching for him since a storm was approaching. Pāka'a was actually listening to this exchange, but he was hidden from the chief.

The two navigators laughed at this warning and bade the chief to depart. He was inclined to listen to the boy and wait on Moloka'i, but the navigators persuaded him to depart. When their canoes paddled away toward O'ahu, Pāka'a told his son to open the wind gourd and release the winds. He called upon the winds of Maui, Moloka'i, Kaua'i, and Ni'ihau:





Kanaloa – God of the Ocean

“Arise, you winds of La’a,  
Roaring in the mountains,  
Beating on the lowlands!  
Meet in a whirlwind.  
The storm has come!”

The smaller canoes were swamped by the strong winds and waves, and the larger canoes tried to come to their aid. Finally, Pāka’a ordered his son to cover the gourd. He did so, leaving only a crack open so that gentle winds could guide the canoes back to Moloka’i.

Source: *The Water of Kāne and Other Legends of the Hawaiian Islands*. Compiled by Mary Kawena Pukui. Honolulu: Kamehameha Schools Press. 1994

The name of Ka-ho’olawe is defined by Mary Kawena Pukui and Samuel Elbert as “the carrying away (by currents)” (Pukui and Elbert, 2004). This name is said to be another name for Kanaloa, the god of the ocean, whose powerful waves were often referenced as descriptions of a man’s great strength. The Kaho’olawe Island Reserve Commission’s motto, “*Kūkulu ke ea a Kanaloa*,” envisions the Reserve as a manifestation of the spirit and life of Kanaloa. The island is also called Kanaloa. It is the only main island to bear the name of a Hawaiian god and it is a *pu’uhonua* (place of refuge) and *wahi pana*—a sacred, storied place.

According to Hawaiian traditions, the gods Kāne and Kanaloa came to the Hawaiian Islands from Kahiki. They came to the island of Kaho’olawe by way of Kealaikahiki, which translates as the pathway to distant lands (Kahiki).

#### Reference

Pukui, Mary K. and Samuel Elbert. *Hawaiian Dictionary*. Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press. 2004