



## WETLAND KŌKUA

## MŌ OLELO

### HI'IAKA AT KULI'OU'OU

In their travels along the coast of the Waikīkī *ahupua'a*, Hi'iaka and her traveling companions, Wahine'ōma'o and Lohi'au passed through Wai'alae, Wailupe and Nui. Lohi'au was a very handsome *ali'i* (chief) from the island of Kaua'i. Pele had fallen in love with him and her sister, Hi'iaka, was bringing him back to Hawai'i. When the travelers reached Kuli'ou'ou, they were hungry. Here they found some women catching 'ōhune fish and crabs in the shallow shoreline pools.

Hi'iaka asked the women to share some of their fish catch with her, Wahine'ōma'o, and Lohi'au. The fishing women had no thought of sharing their fish with the weary travelers. They responded rudely, "Hah! Just asking like that! The nose makes no move to dive nor the hands to grope about down below!" The fishing women refused to give the tired travelers any fish.





As the sister of Pele, the volcano goddess, Hi'iaka could not stand for such an insult. She felt that she needed to punish the women for their rudeness. In response, she offered this *mele*:

*He makani Holo 'uha  
Ko Ka'eleke'i o Paukū.  
Pau wale kea ho i ka noi ana  
O ka loa ho'i, e.*

A Holo'uha, a wind that comes to nothing  
Blows at Ka'eleke'i of Paukū  
Breath is wasted on a request  
Like asking for the sun.

The *makani Holo'uha* is "a cold wind that chills the naked legs of the fisher-folk." (Sterling and Summers, 1978).

As Hi'iaka turned to depart, the unkind fishing women fainted and died.

Sources:

Ho'oulumāhiehie. 2006. *The Epic Tale of Hi'iakaikapoliopole*. Ed. M. Puakea Nogelmeier. Honolulu: Awaiaulu Press

Sterling, Elspeth P. and Catherine C. Summers. 1978. *Sites of O'ahu*. Honolulu: Bishop Museum Press.

Discussion Questions

- Where does this story take place?
- Who is Lohi'au and why is Hi'iaka taking him to the island of Hawai'i?
- What caused Hi'iaka to be insulted at Kuli'ou'ou?
- What did Hi'iaka do when she was insulted by the fishing women?
- Do you think the women in Kuli'ou'ou should have shared their catch? Why or why not?