



## LEARNING FROM OUR KŪPUNA

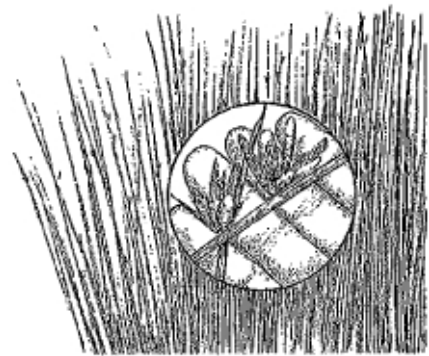
## MO'OLELO

### How Kaumana Turned into Stone

A demigod known as Kaumana once lived on O'ahu at Maunalua with his wife, four sons, and many followers. He and his followers spent their time stealing the food plants of others. When he grew tired of stealing, Kaumana took a trip to Kaua'i. There he met with a *kahuna* (priest) who advised Kaumana to sacrifice his youngest son, Maunalua, to honor the gods and seek forgiveness for his misdeeds.

When he returned to O'ahu, Kaumana landed at Wai'anae where he gathered animals as offerings. He got a black hog, red *kumu* fish, and a white chicken. On his way back to Maunalua, he stopped at Kahala where he gathered fresh *kumu* fish.

He stopped at Niu to gather coconuts, and finally stopped at the wetland at Kuli'ou'ou to gather *makaloa* reeds to make a fine *makaloa* mat.



*Makaloa* reeds grow in a wetland.

When Kaumana reached the fishpond near his home, his four sons swam out to meet him. The youngest son reached his father first. Kaumana tied the boy with ropes and threw him into the pond with all of the offerings he had prepared. The other boys were afraid and swam away. Kaumana realized his loss and began to grieve for his young son, whom he had loved so much.

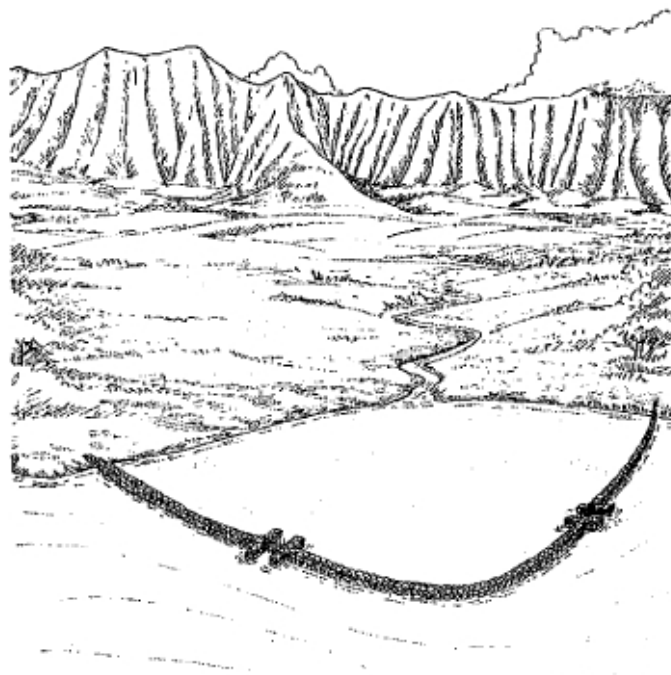
When night came, a strong wind stirred up the sea. The next day, the fishpond was gone, and only sand remained where the pond had been. Kaumana was very bitter and regretted the loss of his son. He killed the people around him and spared only five servants: Wa'ahila-rain, Polihala-rain, Makaiwi-rain, Kuahine-rain, and Lililehua-rain. He and the five rains left Maunalua and went to live on the ridge between Pālolo and Mānoa valleys.

Kaumana grieved heavily for all he had lost. Sensing his pain, the five rains whipped up a furious storm. The rains lashed through the valley and tore into the walls of an *ali'i* (chief's) fishpond in Waikīkī. When the rain finally died, the O'ahu chief, Kakuhihewa, found that the walls of his *loko i'a* (fishpond) were badly damaged.



A *kahuna* told the chief about Kaumana and his five rain servants up on the ridge in Pālolo.

To try and save the chief's fishpond, the *kahuna* took a black pig as an offering and laid it before Kaumana and prayed. But Kaumana could find no peace. He continued to grieve and turned himself into stone. The stone can still be found standing on the ridge between Pālolo and Mānoa valleys. And the names of the five rains mark the ridge names of Pālolo and Mānoa.



*Loko i'a* (fishponds) and *lo'i kalo* (taro patches) were once common Waikiki wetlands.

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