



LEARNING FROM OUR KŪPUNA

MO'OLELO

Ka Puna Hou

The gods Kāne and Kanaloa left the land of Kuaihelani and arrived at Hanauma Bay on the island of O'ahu. The two gods set out to explore their new surroundings. After walking for a long time in the hot sun, Kanaloa called out, "Kāne, we have walked for hours and I am exhausted. We must stop for some water to drink."

Kāne was a kind and courteous god. He began searching for fresh water. He searched and searched but there was no water to be found. Being a god with many powers, Kāne used his magic staff and pierced the ground. When he struck the Earth, cool, clear water came gushing out.

The two gods sat along the side of the path where they drank and ate, and enjoyed their new surroundings. They walked on a short distance when Kanaloa called out, "I am thirsty once again." Again, Kāne lifted his magic staff and struck the ground hard,





causing water to gush forth. At each area, from Hanauma Bay to Lē'ahi, Kāne struck the ground with his staff and caused water to gush forth, creating a spring.

The two gods walked on until they reached 'Āpuakēhau at the edge of Waikīkī. There they stopped for a swim in the cool ocean water and enjoyed the white sand of Waikīkī Beach.

From the beach, Kāne and Kanaloa walked *mauka* (towards the mountains) and stopped at Keapapa Hill (now the site of Punahou School). Again Kanaloa begged his friend to bring forth water to drink. Kāne struck the rock with his staff and drove the point deep into the rock. When he smashed through the rock this time a huge gush of water appeared. This water of Kāne is now called *ka puna hou*, the new spring.

Adapted from:

Harris, Annie. n.d. Waiakeakua: Water of the Gods. Traditions of O'ahu: Stories of an Ancient Island Web site.

Kapi'olani Community College. <http://apdl.kcc.hawaii.edu/~oahu/stories/kona/waiakeakua.htm>. (accessed August 10, 2009).