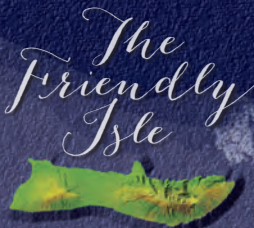


The Garden Isle



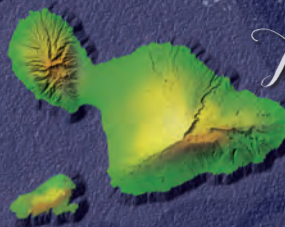
The Gathering Place



The Friendly Isle



The Private Isle



The Valley Isle



The Big Island

# Inoa'ala

(FRAGRANT NAME)

THE NAME HAWAI'I BRINGS TO MIND IMAGES OF CRYSTAL CLEAR WATERS, WHITE SAND BEACHES and a spirit of aloha. It is this spirit that prompted the legislature to officially adopt the popular name of The Aloha State for the islands in 1959. Centuries ago, when the first Polynesian voyagers set foot on the islands of Hawai'i they began to name the land they would eventually settle. Since the meanings of these words and phrases have their roots in history and legend, it's possible to step back in time to learn more about the land and its people.

Spelling and pronunciation have changed, and place names are not static, as old ones have been replaced by new. During the late 1700s, Captain Cook, for example, wrote Hawai'i as Owy-hee and named his discovery the Sandwich Islands. When King Kamehameha I united the islands under his rule, they became the Kingdom of Hawai'i.

As to the meaning of Hawai'i, opinions differ. The Kumuhonua legends tell of Hawai'i-Loa as the name of a legendary figure believed to have first discovered the islands. Other scholars can find no linguistic evidence for a translation at all, suggesting that the name is so ancient that its meaning has been lost in the mists of time.

The Hawaiian name given to each individual island has often been similarly obscured by the passing centuries. Yet they all have stories that are appreciated for their local color. In more contemporary times each island has earned English language nicknames, and are popularly known to have special features that make them unique. It can be said, then, that the islands are separated by the seas around them, but are tied together by the names and traditions that bind them.

Join with Young Brothers, Limited & Foss as we travel around the islands of Hawai'i to showcase their seaside beauty, and appreciate a heritage in living language that endures from antiquity to the present day.



Honolulu Harbor, Oahu. PHOTO: MIKE DANZEISEN

## O'ahu: The Gathering Place

FOR THE MOST POPULOUS ISLAND with the busiest transportation hub in the entire state, it was long accepted that O'ahu meant "gathering place." The translation may date back to as recently as 1922 when Thomas Thrum placed it in his list of "Hawaiian Place Names."

Modern scholars point out that in ancient times O'ahu was not densely populated, and ranked distinctly subordinate to both Hawai'i and Kaua'i. Many suggest that knowing what we do now about linguistics and the Hawaiian language, it is safest not to attempt some place name translations. O'ahu may be one of the names lost to time and a changing language.

As a nickname, however, "the gathering place" strikes a contemporary chord. Young Brothers reports hundreds

of sailings in-and-out of Honolulu each year transporting goods between neighbor islands. More than seven million tourists visit Hawai'i each year, most of them transiting through Honolulu with its population of nearly a million.

Of the symbols associated with O'ahu, one of the most beloved is the 'Ilima, the official flower of the island. Its yellow flowers are said to represent love, and are strung into leis that require hundreds of blossoms.

Our images for O'ahu as the "gathering place" feature the beach at Waikiki, the harbor at Ko'Olina, and a view of Diamond Head rising as the gateway to the island.

## Molokai: The Friendly Isle

MOLOKA'I IS STEEPED IN LEGENDS, where the goddess Hina is the mother of the island, as revealed in the poetical name, *Moloka'i nui a Hina*—great Moloka'i, child of Hina. There are two anecdotal stories that are tied to the island's nickname. The first dates back to the 1920s when the actor Warner Baxter of silent movie fame, came to Moloka'i for a visit at a time when the "Cockeyed Mayor of Kaunakakai" was popular. Local residents improvised a parade in his honor, prompting him to dub Moloka'i as the "Friendly Isle."

The second revolves around Sophie Cooke's memoir of life in the islands entitled, *Sincerely Sophie*, that looked back to the time when Moloka'i was known as the "Lonely Island" or "Leper Island." Some years after the book was published, she wanted to transform the image

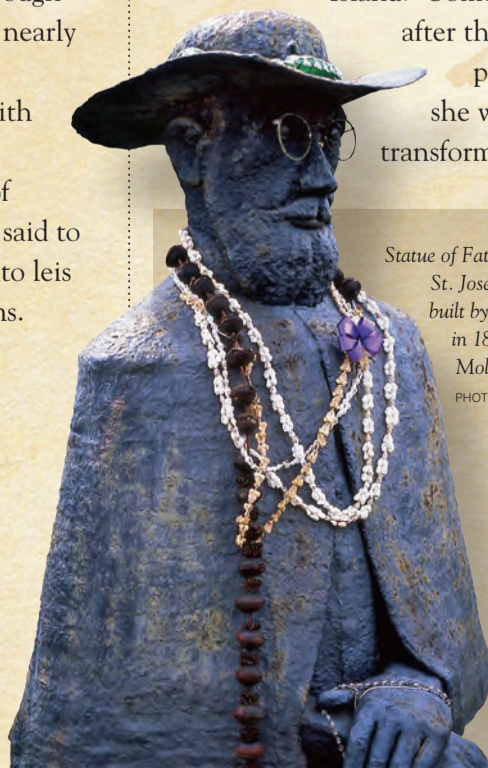


Kalaupapa Peninsula, Molokai. PHOTO: MIKE DANZEISEN

of the island and came up with the "Friendly Isle."

The official flower of Moloka'i is the Kukui, also known as the candlenut tree for its oily nuts that were used for lighting by the early Polynesian settlers who introduced it to Hawai'i. Kukui was also adopted as the State Tree of Hawai'i in 1959.

Our calendar photograph shows visitors enjoying a mule ride down the spectacular trail to Kalaupapa National Historic Park.



Statue of Father Damien at St. Joseph's church, built by Father Damien in 1876, Kamalo, Moloka'i, Hawai'i. PHOTO: DEBORAH UCHIDA





Waihe'e Valley, Maui. PHOTO: MIKE DANZEISEN

## Maui: The Valley Isle

IN THE ANCIENT ACCOUNTS AND prophetic sayings of Hawaiian priests it's said that the earliest name for Maui was Ihikapalaumaewa. The island was later given the name Māui, after the demi-god who became the ancestor of the people there. Legends tell of Māui's exploits as a charming trickster who snared the sun from the lofty heights of Haleakalā.

The absence of a written language in early times makes it difficult to ascertain when the pronunciation of Māui, with its long "a" sound, was shortened to the form we use today. Equally unclear is when the nickname "Valley Isle" was coined, although by 1901 it was regularly being used to refer to Maui in news articles appearing in the *Hawaiian Gazette*. During the days of the ali'i, the 'Iao Valley figured

prominently as a royal residence and sacred burial site. But according to the *All About Hawaii* almanac for 1948, it is the valley-like isthmus between the West Maui mountains and Haleakalā that "gives Maui its nickname 'The Valley Isle.' The rich plain between the two mountains supports the greater portion of the agriculture, industry and population of the island."

Maui's flower is the Loke lani, literally "red rose," which was introduced to Hawai'i in the early 1800s. It became so popular in the gardens of Lahaina that many people eventually nicknamed it the Maui rose.

Our calendar images for Maui take us to the valleys along the Hana Highway, the majestic Wall of Tears deep in the West Maui mountains and historic 'Iao Valley.

## Lāna'i: The Private Isle

THE MOST WIDELY ACCEPTED literal translation for Lāna'i is "day (of) conquest." It brings to mind one of the earliest traditional accounts of Lāna'i dating to the 1400s, that tells of the young chief Kaululā'au, who was exiled to the island from Maui as punishment for his mischievous ways. On Lāna'i, he cleverly outwitted dangerous spirits, each night lighting a victory fire that was visible across the channel until his father was pleased by his courage and

fetches him home.

Several other translations have been put forward for Lāna'i, but they are not based on the traditional pronunciation of the name which was sometimes written as Nanai (*Nāna'i*) or Ranai (*Rāna'i*) in chants and genealogical accounts.

Lāna'i was formerly known by the nickname "Pineapple Island." Beginning in the early 1920s, James Dole's Hawaiian Pineapple Company, Ltd. purchased all the available fee-simple land to develop what became the world's largest pineapple plantation. The last harvest took place in 1992, ushering in new era for the island—it has been mentioned in newspaper accounts as the "Secluded Island," "The Most Enticing Island," and probably most accurately as the "Private Island," reflecting the recent purchase by Larry Ellison. Young Brothers began regular service to Lana'i in 1991.

Kauna'oa, in the morning glory family, was designated the official lei flower for Lāna'i by the Territorial Legislature in 1923, and its orange blossoms can be seen flourishing on the island's beaches.

Our calendar photograph for Lāna'i features the tranquil Hulopo'e Beach, where visitors and local residents continue to share a sense of plantation community while embracing marine conservation.



Kaunapau, Lāna'i. PHOTO: MIKE DANZEISEN



Honoipū Landing, North Kohala, Big Island. PHOTO: MIKE DANZEISEN

## Hawai'i: The Big Island

VARIATIONS OF THE NAME HAWAI'I occur in many parts of Polynesia—Havaiki in New Zealand and 'Avaiki in the Cook Islands, for example. In some of those areas, the name refers to the homeland, or underworld, but modern scholars of the Hawaiian language do not feel those meanings apply in Hawai'i. When King Kamehameha I united the islands under his rule, he named the kingdom after the island of his birthplace.

The island of Hawai'i takes its nickname, the Big Island, because it is twice the size of the other main seven islands combined. Measured from seafloor to summit, Mauna Kea is the highest mountain on earth. As early as 1893, Hawai'i was being mentioned in newspaper accounts as the Big Island.

At various times, advertising campaigns supported by the Hilo Chamber of Commerce have promoted Hawai'i as the "Orchid Isle;" many local companies include "orchid isle" in their business name, to this day. But in 1993 the Hawai'i County Council voted to retain the nickname Big Island for promotional and advertising purposes, acknowledging that the official name is Hawai'i Island.

The Lehua blossom of the 'ōhia tree is the flower of the Big Island, designated by the Territorial Legislature in 1923.

Our calendar images for this island of contrasts takes us from the summit of Mauna Kea, to the pastures of North Kohala, then plunges to the ocean entry for Kilauea Volcano.

## Kaua'i: The Garden Isle

THE NORTHERNMOST MAJOR ISLAND of the Hawaiian chain was known as Tāua'i in the ancient dialect. On one of Captain Cook's earliest maps it was written as Atoui, and was also written as Atooi until the Hawaiian language was standardized in 1826 and it became Kaua'i.

Kaua'i's nickname as the Garden Isle is not difficult to imagine, since the island must have looked as lush as a tropical garden paradise when seen from aboard passing sailing ships.

Perhaps the first recorded mention of the name appears in a 1799 edition of La Perouse's voyage around the world, where he footnotes a journey of the navigator Gaetan who he believed had discovered the islands,

*"after running 900 leagues [from the western coast of Mexico he] fell in with a group of islands... Surrounded by coral reefs, coconuts, and other fruits... And another island which he discovered twenty leagues further to the westward he called the "Garden Island."*

By 1887 the nickname was appearing in local newspapers to describe Kaua'i.

The fragrant Mokihana shrub was adopted as the island flower for Kaua'i in 2000, and the leaves are fashioned into distinctive lei's from the island. It grows only on Kaua'i and was prized by the Hawaiians for its fragrance.

Our photo shows the tropical lushness of the Wailua River on the way to the famed Fern Grotto.



Allerton Garden, Kaua'i. PHOTO: DEBORAH UCHIDA



Writer: Deborah Uchida, Photography: Mike Danzeisen  
Design: Guy Fernandez, Tidal charts: EKNA Services Inc.  
© Copyright 2014  
Young Brothers, Limited & Foss  
Pier 40 • P.O. Box 3288 • Honolulu, HI 96801  
(808) 543-9311  
[www.youngbrothershawaii.com](http://www.youngbrothershawaii.com) • [www.foss.com](http://www.foss.com)

Left: 'Ōpaeka'a Falls, Kaua'i. PHOTO: MIKE DANZEISEN