

Readers' Guide

Native species discussed in this document are referred to by their Hawaiian names. Common English names and scientific nomenclature can be found in the glossary in Appendix A. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service endeavors to be accurate in its use of the Hawaiian language and correctly spell Hawaiian words, including the diacritical marks that affect the meaning and aid in pronunciation. This guide is provided to simplify pronunciation for the reader.

When Captain Cook arrived in the Hawaiian Islands in 1778, the Hawaiians had a totally oral tradition. In 1820, western missionaries standardized a written version of the Hawaiian language that features eight consonants and five vowels.

Consonants

H - as in English
K - as in English
L - as in English
M - as in English
N - as in English
P - as in English
W - after i and e pronounced like v
- after u and o pronounced like w
- at the start of a word or after a,
pronounced like w or v
(‘) - ‘okina - a glottal stop

Vowels

A - pronounced like the a in far
E - pronounced like the e in bet
I - pronounced like the ee in beet
O - pronounced like the o in sole
U - pronounced like the oo in boot

Special Symbols

Two symbols appear frequently in Hawaiian words: the ‘okina and the kahakō. These two symbols change how words are pronounced. The ‘okina itself looks like an upside-down apostrophe and is a glottal stop – or a brief break in the word. An example of this in English is in the middle of the expression “uh-oh.” The ‘okina is an official consonant – just as any of the other consonants.

The kahakō is a stress mark (macron) that can appear over vowels only and serve to make the vowel sound slightly longer. The vowels ā, ē, ī, ō, and ū sound just like their non-stress Hawaiian vowels with the exception that the sound is held slightly longer. Missing the ‘okina or kahakō can greatly change not only the how a word sounds, but also its basic meaning. A popular example of how an ‘okina and a kahakō can change the meaning of a word is “pau”:

- pau = finished, ended, all done
- pa‘u = soot, smudge, ink powder
- pa‘ū = moist, damp
- pā‘ū = skirt

Refuge Place Names

Kīlauea

(*Key-Low-Way-Ah*)

meaning: spewing; much spreading

Seabirds

‘A (AHH)

Red-footed booby *Sula sula rubripes*

SPECIES STATUS:

State recognized as Indigenous



Mark MacDonald

Mō’ī (MOE-lee)

Laysan albatross *Phoebastria immutabilis*

SPECIES STATUS:

State recognized as Indigenous

North American Waterbird Conservation Plan - High concern



Sandra Hall

‘Ka‘upu (kah OO-poo)

Black-footed albatross *Phoebastria albatrus*

SPECIES STATUS:

State listed as Threatened

State recognized as Indigenous

IUCN Red List Ranking - Endangered



USFWS

‘Iwa (EE vah)

Great frigatebird *Fregata minor palmerstoni*

SPECIES STATUS:

State recognized as Indigenous



USFWS

Nēnē (NAY-NAY)

Hawaiian Goose *Branta sandvicensis*

SPECIES STATUS:

Federally listed as Endangered

State listed as Endangered

State recognized as Endemic



Laura Beauregard

Migrant Shorebirds

‘Akekeke (ah-kay-KAY-kay)

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

SPECIES STATUS:

State recognized as Indigenous

U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan - High Concern



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Hunakai (hoo-nah-KYE)

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

SPECIES STATUS:

State recognized as Indigenous

Hunakai means “sea foam.” Their habit of running along the receding waves on the shore in search of small sand crabs apparently reminded early Hawaiians of the sea foam or hunakai left behind by the waves. It shares the name with a coastal plant.



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Kioea (kee-oh-AY-ah)

Bristle-thighed Curlew *Numenius tahitiensis*

SPECIES STATUS:

State recognized as Indigenous

IUCN Red List Ranking - Vulnerable



Laura Beawegard

Kōlea (KOHH-lay-ah)

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

SPECIES STATUS:

State recognized as Indigenous

U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan - High Concern



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‘Ūlīlī (OOO-lee-lee)

Wandering Tattler *Heteroscelus incanus*

SPECIES STATUS:

State recognized as Indigenous

U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan - Moderate Concern



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Other Native Animals

‘Ōpe‘ape‘a (OHH-pay ah-PAY ah)

Hawaiian Hoary Bat *Lasiurus cinereus semotus*

SPECIES STATUS:
Federally listed as Endangered



NPS

‘Ilio holo i ka uaua (EEE-lee-oh HO-loh EE kah OO-ah OO-ah)

Hawaiian Monk Seal *Monachus schauinslandi*

SPECIES STATUS:
Federally listed as Endangered



USFWS

Pueo (poo-AY-oh)

Hawaiian Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus sandwichensis*

SPECIES STATUS:
State recognized as Endangered on O‘ahu
State recognized as Endemic



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‘Auku‘u (ow-KOO oo)

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*

SPECIES STATUS:
State recognized as Indigenous



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‘A‘o (AH oh)

Newell’s Shearwater *Puffinus auricularis newelli*

SPECIES STATUS:
Federally recognized as Endangered



Brenda Zaun

Native Plants

‘**Akoko (ah-KOH-koh)**

Chamaesyce celastroides

SPECIES STATUS:

State recognized as Endemic



USFWS

Hala (HAH-lah)

Beach Vitex *Pandanus tectorius*

SPECIES STATUS:

State recognized as Indigenous



USFWS

‘**Ilima (ee-LEE-mah)**

Hibiscus *Sida fallax*

SPECIES STATUS:

State recognized as Indigenous



USFWS

Naupaka Kahakai (now-PAH-kah kah-HAH-kye)

Scaevola sericea

SPECIES STATUS:

State recognized as Indigenous



USFWS

Pōhuehue (POHH-hoo-ay-HOO-ay)

Beach morning glory *Ipomoea pescaprae*

SPECIES STATUS:

State recognized as Indigenous



USFWS

