

Glossary

For food terms, see p601

'a'a – type of lava that is rough and jagged

ae'o – Hawaiian black-necked stilt

'ahinahina – silversword plant with pointed silver leaves

ahu – stone cairns used to mark a trail; an altar or shrine

ahupua'a – traditional land division, usually in a wedge shape that extends from the mountains to the sea (smaller than a *moku*)

'aina – land

'akala – Hawaiian raspberry; also called a thimbleberry

'akohekohe – Maui parrotbill

'alae ke'oke'o – endangered Hawaiian coot

'alae 'ula – Hawaiian moorhen

'alauahio – Maui creeper

ali'i – chief, royalty

ali'i nui – high chiefs

aloha – the traditional greeting meaning love, welcome, good-bye

aloha 'aina – love of the land

'amakihi – small, yellow-green honeycreeper; one of

the more common native birds

anchialine pool – contains a mixture of seawater and freshwater

'apapane – bright red native Hawaiian honeycreeper

a'u – marlin

'aumakua – protective deity or guardian spirit, deified ancestor or trustworthy person

'awa – see *kava*

'awa 'awa – bitter

azuki bean – often served as a sweetened paste, eg as a topping for shave ice

braguinha – a Portuguese stringed instrument introduced to Hawaii in the late 19th century from which the ukulele is derived

e koko mai – welcome

'elepaio – Hawaiian monarch flycatcher; a brownish native bird with a white rump, common to O'ahu forests

ha – breath

ha'i – high falsetto

haku – head

hala – pandanus tree; the leaves (*lau*) are used in weaving mats and baskets

hale – house

Haloa – the stillborn son of Papa and Wakea, brother to man

haole – Caucasian; literally, 'without breath'

hapa – portion or fragment; person of mixed blood

hapa haole – Hawaiian music with predominantly English lyrics

hapu'u – tree fern

hau – indigenous lowland hibiscus tree whose wood is often used for making canoe outriggers (stabilizing arms that jut out from the hull)

he'e nalu – wave sliding, or surfing

heiau – ancient stone temple; a place of worship in Hawaii

holua – sled or sled course

honi – to share breath

honu – turtle

ho'okipa – hospitality

ho'okupu – offering

ho'olaule'a – celebration, party

ho'onanea – to pass the time in ease, peace and pleasure

hukilau – fishing with a *seine*, involving a group of people who pull in the net

hula – Hawaiian dance form, either traditional or modern

hula 'auana – modern hula, developed after the introduction of Western music

hula halau – hula school or troupe

hula kahiko – traditional hula

'i'iwi – scarlet Hawaiian honeycreeper with a curved, salmon-colored beak

'iliahi – Hawaiian sandalwood

'ilima – native plant, a ground cover with delicate yellow-orange flowers; O'ahu's official flower

'ilio holo kai – 'the dog that runs in the sea'; Hawaiian monk seal

'io – Hawaiian hawk

ipo – sweetheart

ipu – spherical, narrow-necked gourd used as a hula implement

issei – first-generation Japanese immigrants; born in Japan

kahili – a feathered standard, used as a symbol of royalty

kahuna – knowledgeable person in any field; commonly a priest, healer or sorcerer

kahuna lapa'au – healer

kahuna nui – high priest(ess)

kalo lo'i – taro fields

kama'aina – person born and raised, or a longtime resident, in Hawaii; literally, 'child of the land'

kanaka – man, human being, person; also Native Hawaiian

kane/Kane – man; if capitalized, the name of one of four main Hawaiian gods

kanikapila – open-mic jam sessions

kanoa – hidden meaning

kapa – see *tapa*

kapu – taboo, part of strict ancient Hawaiian social and religious system

kapuna – elders

kaua – ancient Hawaiian lower class, outcasts

kaunaoa – a yellowish-orange vine used in Lana'i lei

kava – a mildly narcotic drink ('awa in Hawaiian) made from the roots of *Piper methysticum*, a pepper shrub

keiki – child

ki – see *ti*

ki ho'alu – slack key

kiawe – a relative of the mesquite tree introduced to Hawaii in the 1820s, now very common; its branches are covered with sharp thorns

kika kila – Hawaiian steel guitar

ki'i – see *tiki*

ki'i akua – temple images

kilau – a stiff, weedy fern

kipuka – an area of land spared when lava flows around it; an oasis

ko – sugarcane

koa – native hardwood tree often used in making native crafts and canoes

koki'o ke'oke'o – native Hawaiian white hibiscus tree

kokua – help, cooperation

koloa maoli – Hawaiian duck

kona – leeward side; a leeward wind

konane – a strategy game similar to checkers

konoiki – caretakers

ko'olau – windward side

Ku – Polynesian god of many manifestations, including god of war, farming and fishing (husband of Hina)

kukui – candlenut tree; the official state tree; its oily nuts were once burned in lamps

kuleana – rights

kumu hula – hula teacher

Kumulipo – Native Hawaiian creation story or chant

kupuna – grandparent, elder

ku'ula/Ku'ula – a stone idol placed at fishing sites, believed to attract fish; if capitalized, the god of fishermen

la'au lapa'au – plant medicine

lanai – veranda; balcony

lau – leaf

lauhala – leaves of the *hala* plant, used in weaving

lei – garland, usually of flowers, but also of leaves or shells

leptospirosis – a disease acquired by exposure to water contaminated by the urine of infected animals, especially rodents

limu – seaweed

lokelani – pink damask rose, or 'rose of heaven'; Maui's official flower

loko i'a – fishpond

loko wai – freshwater fishpond

lolo – stupid, feeble-minded, crazy

lomi – to rub or soften

lomilomi – traditional Hawaiian massage; known as 'loving touch'

Lono – Polynesian god of harvest, agriculture, fertility and peace

loulu – native fan palms

luakini – a type of *heiau* dedicated to the war god Ku and used for human sacrifices

luau – traditional Hawaiian feast

luna – supervisor

mahalo – thank you

mahele – to divide; usually refers to the sugar industry-initiated land divisions of 1848

mahu – a transgendered or cross-dressing male

mai ho'oka'awale – leprosy (Hansen's disease); literally, 'the separating sickness'

mai'a – banana

maile – native plant with twining habit and fragrant leaves; often used for lei

maka'ainana – commoners; literally, 'people who tend the land'

makaha – a sluice gate, used to regulate the level of water in a fishpond

makahiki – traditional annual wet-season winter festival dedicated to the agricultural god Lono

makai – toward the sea; seaward

make – dead

malihini – newcomer, visitor

mamane – a native tree with bright yellow flowers; used to make lei

mamo – a yellow-feathered bird, now extinct

mana – spiritual power

mauka – toward the mountains; inland

mele – song, chant

menehune – 'little people' who, according to legend, built many of Hawaii's fishponds, heiau and other stonework

milo – a native shade tree with beautiful hardwood
moa – jungle fowl
mokihana – a tree with leathery berries that faintly smell of licorice, used in Kaua'i lei
moku – wedge-shaped areas of land running from the ridge of the mountains to the sea
mokupuni – island
mo'i – king
mo'o – water spirit, water lizard or dragon
muumuu – a long, loose-fitting dress introduced by the missionaries

na keiki – children
na'u – fragrant Hawaiian gardenia
naupaka – a native shrub with delicate white flowers
Neighbor Islands – the term used to refer to the main Hawaiian Islands outside of O'ahu
nene – a native goose; Hawaii's state bird
nisei – second-generation Japanese immigrants
niu – coconut palm
no ka 'oi – the best

'ohana – family, extended family; close-knit group
'ohi'a lehua – native Hawaiian tree with tufted, feathery, pom-pom-like flowers
'olelo Hawai'i – the Hawaiian language
oli – chant
olona – a native shrub
'omilu – a type of trevally
'o'o ihe – spear throwing
'ope'ape'a – Hawaiian hoary bat
'opihī – an edible limpet

pahoehoe – type of lava that is quick and smooth-flowing
pakalolo – marijuana; literally, 'crazy smoke'
palaka – Hawaiian-style plaid shirt made from sturdy cotton

pali – cliff
paniolo – cowboy
Papa – earth mother
pau – finished, no more
pa'u – traditional riding, in which lei-bedecked women in flowing dresses ride for show
pau hana – happy hour
Pele – goddess of fire and volcanoes; her home is in Kilauea Caldera
pidgin – distinct local language and dialect, influenced by its multiethnic immigrants
pikake – jasmine flowers
piko – navel, umbilical cord
pili – a bunchgrass, commonly used for thatching houses
pohaku – rock
pohuehue – beach morning glory (a flowering plant)
pono – righteous, respectful and proper
pua aloalo – yellow hibiscus
pua'a waewae loloa – 'long-legged pigs,' an ancient Hawaiian euphemism for human sacrificial victims
pueo – Hawaiian owl
puka – any kind of hole or opening; puka shells are those that are small, white and strung into necklaces
pukiawe – native plant with red and white berries and evergreen leaves
pule – prayers
pulu – the silken clusters encasing the stems of *hapu'u* ferns
pupu – snack or appetizer; also a type of cowry shell
pu'u – hill, cinder cone
pu'uhonua – place of refuge
raku – a style of Japanese pottery characterized by a rough, handmade appearance
rubbah slippah – rubber flip-flops
sansei – third-generation Japanese immigrants
seine – a large net used for fishing

shaka – hand gesture used in Hawaii as a greeting or sign of local pride
shōji – translucent paper-covered wooden sliding doors
stink-eye – dirty look
taiko – Japanese drumming
talk story – to strike up a conversation, make small talk
tapa – cloth made by pounding the bark of paper mulberry, used for early Hawaiian clothing (*kapa* in Hawaiian)
ti – common native plant; its long shiny leaves are used for wrapping food and making hula skirts (*ki* in Hawaiian)
tiki – wood- or stone-carved statue, usually depicting a deity (*ki'i* in Hawaiian)
tutu – grandmother or grandfather; also term of respect for any member of that generation

'ua'u – dark-rumped petrel
ukulele – a stringed musical instrument derived from the *braguinha*, which was introduced to Hawaii in the 1800s by Portuguese immigrants
'uli'uli – gourd rattle containing seeds and decorated with feathers, used as a hula implement
'ulu – breadfruit
'ulu maika – ancient Hawaiian stone bowling game

wa'a kaulua – an ancient Hawaiian long-distance sailing vessel
wahi pana – sacred place
Wakea – sky father
warabi – fiddlehead fern
wauke – paper mulberry, used to make *tapa*
wiliwili – the lightest of the native woods

zendo – communal Zen meditation hall