

The Legend of Moeha`una

While Pele and her sisters Kapo`ulakīna`u and Moeha`una were traveling on Kaua`i, the retinue stopped at Mana. There they met the unmarried chief, Limaloa. The chief was kind and hospitable and showed them the beauties of West Kaua`i. During their stay with the handsome chief, Moeha`una fell in love with Limaloa and her feelings were reciprocated. Kapo`ulakīna`u, being the elder sister, agreed to the marriage. After the marriage ceremony, Kapo`ulakīna`u and her retinue continued on their voyage, leaving Moeha`una behind with her new husband in this new land.

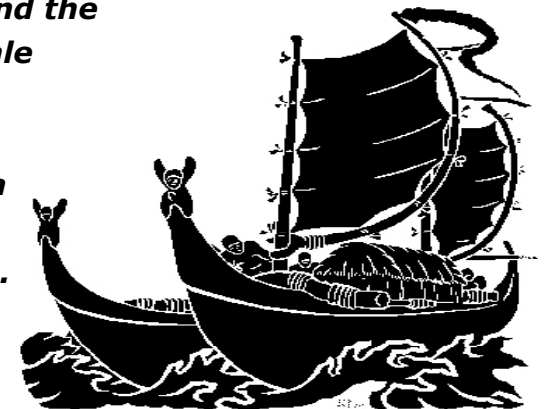
After traveling a great distance to a village near Waimea, Kapo`ulakīna`u begin to miss her sister, and chanted her love and heartache to the winds. The winds, taking pity on the lonely sister, carried the chant to Moeha`una. Upon hearing her sister's chant, Moeha`una responded on the winds sending Kapo`ulakīna`u her aloha and farewell, so her sister would know that she was happy and content with her new husband, and that Kapo`ulakīna`u should continue her journey alone.



Ola i Ke Ahe Lau Makani

In tune with their environment, Hawaiians were skilled in using their available natural resources to their advantage. Abundant and brilliant sun power was used to dry food, kapa and gourds for everyday use. Surfers and fishermen alike channeled the limitless and awe-inspiring power of the ocean. And the salty, ocean winds were captured in the sails of the voyagers to these islands. In fact, legends say that some Hawaiians were able to harness the winds and call upon them at will.

There is a saying, Ola i ke Ahe Lau Makani, which translates to There is Life in a Breath of Wind. Here, we relate three legends that show how Hawaiians used the life-giving forces of the wind: heroic Maui battling the wind with his giant kite, the clever Paka'a, who created the first sailing canoe to beat his fellow fishermen back to shore, and the touching tale of loving sisters, Moeha`una and Kapo`ulakīna`u.



Māui Challenges the Wind

After many experiments, the demi-god Māui built a giant kite with crossbeams of hau wood, covered with his mother's strongest kapa cloth, and bound by a long line of olonā fiber. When Māui launched his giant kite into the air, it rose very slowly – the winds would not lift it to soar in the sky.

Seeking more wind to lift his giant kite, Māui called out to La'amaomao, keeper of the winds, to send the strongest winds from their resting place in her sacred gourd. La'amaomao released the wild and fierce winds, who rushed to attack the giant kite that dared to enter their skies.



Māui struggled to hold the giant kite in the whipping winds, laughing with enthusiasm and shouting his challenge to the winds to take his giant kite even higher! The giant kite stretched and strained under the heavy attack of the winds, bending almost to the breaking point. The winds became angered by Māui's challenge and in one savage gust tore the olonā fiber line from Māui's hands and tossed the giant kite to the ground.

Saluting the awesome force of the wind, Māui went to retrieve his giant kite, but found that it had been smashed beyond repair.

From then on, Māui honored the wind for its victory and power. Maui built a smaller kite and would launch it while fishing in his double-hulled canoe, humbly asking for the wind's mighty assistance to pull him across the ocean faster and further than ever before. And when flying his kite for sport and fun, Maui called only for the gentle breezes in clear, blue skies to send his kite aloft for all to see.

Paka`a Harnesses the Wind

Paka`a was a little boy who loved to eat fish – he could never eat enough! But when Paka`a's father was called away to the service of the chief, there was no one to fish for Paka`a and his mother. Paka`a and his mother were forced to rely on the charity of their neighbors for fish, and sometimes went hungry when there was not enough to go around. Paka`a decided to make sure he and his mother always had all the fish they could eat.

The next morning, Paka`a gathered one of his mother's woven lauhala mats and two strong, tall poles, put them into a canoe, and paddled far out into the blue ocean to where the village men were fishing. When the men were done fishing, and their canoe was full of the fish they had caught, Paka`a challenged them to a race back to the shore. The winner, Paka`a said, would get to keep all of the fish caught that day.

The fishermen laughed. How could one small boy beat them back to shore? The fishermen turned their canoe and began to paddle rapidly towards shore, leaving Paka`a far behind. But Paka`a had a plan – he unrolled his mother's lauhala mat and lashed it to the tall poles, creating a large sail. Anchoring it firmly on the bottom of the canoe, Paka`a raised the sail to catch the wind. The wind



swirled and blew, filling Paka`a's sail, pushing his canoe quickly towards shore. Faster and faster Paka`a's canoe traveled – first catching up with, then passing the fishermen! With the force of the wind on his side, Paka`a triumphantly reached the shore first!

When the fishermen finally reached the shore, the men wondered at the sail Paka`a had created. Because they had lost the bet, the men gave all of their fish to Paka`a. "Teach us how to make a sail like yours," the fishermen begged Paka`a, "and you and your mother will have all the fish you desire every night!"

So Paka`a taught the fishermen how to make and use the sail. The fishermen could then travel much further, much faster than ever before, and always brought back plenty of fish for Paka`a to eat.