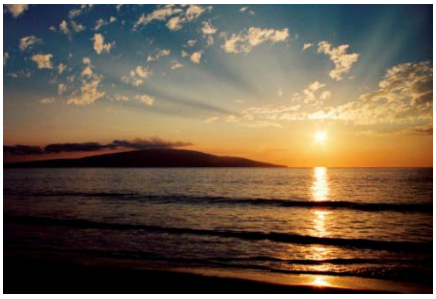
Sharing Hawaii's People, Culture and Nature

"I Kaulua, Kaulua ka lā, Kaulua ka ua."
In Kaulua, sunshine and rain alternate.
ʻŌlelo Noʻeau, Hawaiian Proverbs & Poetical Sayings by Mary Kawena Pukui



There are two distinctive seasons in the Hawaiian calendar: the dry season, called Kau, and the wet season, called Hoʻoilo. The final two months of the wet season, Kaulua and Nana normally converge during the western season of spring.

As the proverb says, Kaulua is typically a time of alternating warm and cool, wet and dry, weather. Its English translation, "indecisive, of two minds," describes the reluctance of fishermen and farmers to act during unpredictable conditions. They want to stay dry indoors, yet they also want to prepare their nets and plant crops to ensure an abundant future for their families and neighbors. This same reluctance is observed in nature. Baby birds, unwilling to leave the warm safety of their nests, are physically pushed out by older birds that know the fledglings must learn to fly and build their strength in preparation for a long migration.

In the Hawaiian mind, times of doubt are the best times to act decisively and follow through with hard work. In keeping with this philosophy Kaulua was the time for the aliʻi or chief to make bold decisions. He would ask the kahuna (spiritual advisor) to help him recognize a sign from the gods and the ancestors to help him guide his people wisely. Once his decision was made, the chief would move forward with confident action and never second-guess his choice.

Hawaiians tend to view the future with optimism and hope. They trust that the future, like the weather, is certain to improve. So when it comes to decision-making, Hawaiians place themselves at the intersection between faith, commitment, and action to move boldly into the future. So what if it rains, today we will still plant. And even though the seedlings are not visible for weeks, planting today means we will eat tomorrow.

If you are pondering a personal, career, financial, family, or life decision against a background of uncertainty, know that Maui is the perfect place and spring is the perfect time to decide.

Note: Hawaiian cultural information courtesy of Kahu Lyons Kapiʻioholokalani Naone, a lineal descendent of a South Maui family well versed in the oral histories and traditions of the region that includes Wailea. Kahu Naone is largely regarded as one of the foremost authorities on the Hawaiian sun, moon and star calendars; and is a member of E Ola Pono, cultural advisors to Grand Wailea.

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