

Hinahānaiakamalama
Hina



Out of the Blue

HINA

Since 2006, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council has worked with partners to develop traditional lunar calendars for Hawai'i, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. For the 2019 *Kaulana Mahina* (Hawaiian lunar calendar), the Council partnered with the YWCA O'ahu on a calendar that features the many forms of Hina, the Hawaiian goddess of the moon.

An important Hawaiian concept is balancing the Hina and Kū sides of our spirit and physical body. Hina is associated with the feminine energy, the slanted position, the supporter and the left side of the body, while Kū relates to the masculine energy, the upright position, the proud and the right side of the body. Like Hina, Kū comes in many forms, including Kū'ula or Kū'ula-kai (Kū of the abundance of the sea), the premier fishing deity worshipped by Hawaiian fishermen.

Hinahānaiakamalama, depicted in the front of this poster by Oliver Kinney, a gifted Hawaiian artist and illustrator, is a maker of *kapa* (fabric from fibers of certain trees and shrubs). With the help of her gods, she freed herself from a life of toil and hardship under an unbearable husband by escaping to Māhealani, the fullest of the moons. There she transcended to become the goddess of the moon.

Hina ai malama (Hina feeding on the moon), a grandchild of Kaiuli (the dark sea) and Kaikea (the light sea), was provided a *calabash* (gourd) from her brother as an apology for his neglect. The calabash is known as Kipapalauulu, containing the moon and stars as her vegetable and fish food, or as **Hinaikamalama**, from whence the moon phases and stars escaped and flew to the heavens to help fishermen to fish and farmers to plant.

Hina, the mother of Māui, assisted her son in his many brave feats that benefit the people of Hawai'i. Māui is credited with fishing up the Hawaiian Islands with his famous fish hook under explicit instructions from his mother. Another feat of Māui is capturing the sun.

Hina'ōpūhalako'a, a goddess of corals and spiny sea creatures, sometimes appears as a woman and sometimes as a coral reef. Māui used a shell from her reef to make his famous fish hook to draw together the islands.

Hinapukui'a and Kū'ula lived in Hana, Maui, and were responsible for all the *loko i'a* (fishponds) along the coastline that supplied everyone with *i'a* (sea life) to eat. Their son 'Ai'ai helped his parents and learned all the ways of the sea from them. He taught the people how to construct *kū'ula* (fishing shrines), how to ask the *i'a* to be sent to them and how to care for fishponds and the sea life and be honorable stewards of the sea.

Moloka'i nui ā Hina, one of the most sacred of all our Hawaiian Islands, is a child of Hina and Wākea (the great sky father). They met when he fishing in the open ocean for deep-water fish.

Hinalauae's sacred cave on Moloka'i divides Mapulehu from Kalua'aha. It is called the *kumu* (root) of the island. Hina's permanent residence lay at Kalua'aha, a cave dwelling hidden at Pa'ō'iki Ridge. Hina used Wawahonua'aho, a great wind gourd containing three storms, to protect her child, Moloka'i. The Ilinahu wind gushes from Kamakou, uprooting trees and sweeping twirled shrubbery down and out to sea. The Uluhewa wind darkens skies on Pailolo Channel and causes the lightning to flash, thunder to crack and the island to shake. The worst storm, Lulukū, unleashes wild gushes of wind causing ocean floods and crushing chiefs and the land.

Hina and Kahiki'ula parented Kamapua'a, a *kupua* (shape-changer) whose forms include a large black *pua'a* (pig) with large tusks, part of the *kukui* (candle nut) tree, a half-man half-pig and a very handsome man with a muscular body. In the ocean he can turn into the *humuhumunukunukuapua'a*, the triggerfish that is the Hawai'i state fish and which has a mouth that looks like a pig.

Hinalaulimukala (Hina of the *limu kala*) is the healer who employs the brown seaweed the Native Hawaiians use in purification and healing ceremonies. **Hina'ea** is a goddess of the sunrise and sunset and a healer, especially of the 'ea (thrush disease of children).

Hinaikeahi and by **Hinaikawai** cared for the small town of Hilo on the island of Hawai'i, which was once divided in two.

Sina of Samoa is similar to Hina of Hawai'i and comes in many forms. One of the stories known widely throughout the Pacific is about Sina and the *tuna* (eel) whose buried head became the coconut tree.

Fuller accounts of these *mo'olelo* (stories) can be found in written text and short videos by visiting www.wpcouncil.org/2019-hawaii-lunar-calendar.

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