



### Kāne and Kanaloa

In the beginning, the akua Kāne and Kanaloa came to Hawai'i from Kahiki. Mo'olelo passed down from our ancestors tell us that Kāne is the god of creation, including fresh water. Kanaloa is the god of the deep ocean. The two bring harmony to nature allowing all to exist together. One valuable gift that Kāne and Kanaloa give us is wai.

Kāne and Kanaloa balance each other although they argue constantly. Kāne is gruff and impatient, so the water that he releases from the earth rumbles and roars. Large streams and rivers are 'awa his creations. Kanaloa has an easy-going manner. He is responsible for still waters, such as springs and pools, as well as fresh water which flows underground. The water these gods provide feeds the 'āina, the ahupua'a, and all within it.

One day Kāne and Kanaloa searched the Hawaiian Islands for the 'awa plant. When they arrived on Maui, they landed at Hāmākua-loa. The akua traveled into the mountains behind Ke-'anae, for they heard that the 'awa there was delicious. When Kāne and Kanaloa arrived, there was no 'awa because the water that fed it had dried up. Could wai even be found here? Kāne challenged Kanaloa to locate some wai.

Directed by Kanaloa, Kāne raised his mighty 'ō'ō and brought it down into solid rock. From that spot, water gushed forth into the valley, giving it life. The akua celebrated together with a drink made from the root of 'awa mixed with the sweet water they had brought to this 'āina.



Over time, the ali'i of Maui noticed 'awa was growing abundantly, and began using it for ritual ceremonies. The maka'āinana also observed this and started enjoying the 'awa drink. Too much time was spent drinking. The people no longer cared for the land. Soon, the valley and the village became barren. The kāhuna and ali'i did not know what to do. The water the akua Kāne and Kanaloa blessed them with was drying up. They prayed to the akua for help. After many heated arguments, the akua settled on an answer. The ali'i were to immediately place a kapu on the 'awa root, restricting its use only for themselves and the kāhuna for ceremony.

Time passed and the 'āina flourished again. Kāne and Kanaloa were pleased and searched for 'awa on other islands. These akua brought sweet waters flowing at many places including Wai-kāne on Lāna'i and Puna-kou on Moloka'i. What can we learn from this mo'olelo? When people pay proper respect to the kapu and akua, the land prospers from the waters of life.

He ui, he nīnau-  
E ui aku ana au 'iā 'oe  
Aia i hea ka wai a Kāne?  
Aia i ka hikina a ka lā  
Puka i Ha'e'ha'e,  
Aia i laila ka wai a Kāne.

A query, a question-  
I put to you,  
Where is the water of Kāne?  
At the Eastern Gate  
Where the sun comes in at Ha'e'ha'e,  
There is the water of Kāne.