

Hawaiian Names Practice Exercise

Using the list of kikino and ‘a‘ano below, take turns with your partner giving several English translations to be stated back as the original Hawaiian name.

While deciding on the correct translation:

1. Listen carefully for whether or not “the” is used.
2. If the word has a “the,” use the KEAO rule to decide between “ka” and “ke.” “Nā” is the plural form.
3. Remember that the ‘a‘ano (descriptive word) comes after the kikino (noun) in Hawaiian. This is the opposite of the English word order.
4. Help each other with correct pronunciation.

For example:

- If your partner says, “Flower,” provide the Hawaiian name, **Pua**.
- If you hear, “The Stars,” you will say **Nāhōkū**.
(Focus on slightly elongating each vowel marked by the kahakō).
- If you hear, “The Heavenly Frigate Bird,” you will translate, **Ka‘iwalani**.
(Focus on clearly pronouncing the ‘okina).

Kikino (Nouns)

koa	brave one
kama	child
pua	flower
lei	flower garland
‘iwa	frigate bird
inoa	name
kai	sea
hōkū	star
leo	voice

‘A‘ano (Descriptive Words)

nani	beautiful
mālie	calm
‘ala	fragrant
aniani	glassy/transparent
lani	heavenly
makamae	precious