

Nā ‘Ōlelo Pōkole no ka ‘Ai a me ka Inu

Basic Words and Expressions for Eating and Drinking

Nā Hua‘ōlelo Ma‘amau (Basic Vocabulary):

ka mea‘ai – food

ka meainu – drink

ka pā‘ina – meal, dinner, small party

ka hua‘ai – fruit

- ka ipu ‘ala – cantaloupe
- ka mai‘a – banana
- meleni – melon (from Tahitian)
- ka hua waina – grapes (wine fruit)

ka lau‘ai – vegetable

- ka lū‘au – taro leaves
- ka lū‘au haole – spinach

ka mea‘ono – dessert, cake, pastry,
“delicious thing”

ka monamona – a newer word meaning
dessert, from “momona” (fat/sweet)

- ke koneko – donut
- ka mōchi – mochi

ke kī‘aha – cup

ke kāwele – napkin

ka hale ‘aina – restaurant

ka ‘aina – meal

- ka ‘aina kakahiaka – breakfast
- ka ‘aina awakea – lunch
- ka ‘aina ahiahi – dinner

ka pūpū – appetizer

- ke kai penu – dip

ka mea‘ai māmā – snack, “light food”

- ka pelena – cracker

ka pahi – knife

ka pa‘akai – salt

ka ‘ai – food, kalo/taro/poi

ka i‘a – fish, other things eaten with poi
(taro leaves, salt, hō‘i‘o/pāhole ferns,
meat, etc...)

There are many “kū‘ē lula” words (that break the KEAO rule) for food-related things:

ke pā – plate

ke pā pepa – paper plate

ke ‘ō – fork

ke puna – spoon

ke pākaukau – table

ke pola – the bowl, cup, mug

ke pola kope – coffee mug

Nā Hopuna‘ōlelo Pōkole (Basic Sentences):

Pōloli ‘oe?

Are you hungry?

Pōloli loa au!

I’m very hungry!

E 'ai kāua/kākou.	<i>Let's (you and me / all of us) eat.</i>
E pū pa'akai kāua/kākou.	<i>Let's eat together / share salt – more poetic</i>
E 'ai a mā'ona.	<i>Eat until you are satisfied/full.</i>
E inu a kena.	<i>Drink until your thirst is quenched.</i>
E hā'awi mai i ka monamona, ke 'olu'olu.	<i>Pass the dessert, please.</i>
E 'olu'olu, e hō mai i ka mōchi.	<i>Please pass the mochi.</i>
Nani kēia mau 'uala!	<i>These sweet potatoes are beautiful!</i>
Ua piha ka 'ōpū.	<i>The (my) stomach is full</i>
Ua mā'ona ka 'ōpū (often pronounced "mā'ana").	<i>The (my) stomach is satisfied/satiated/full.</i>
Ua pae ka wa'a.	<i>The canoe has landed – a poetic way to say, "I'm full."</i>
Makewai au.	<i>I'm thirsty.</i>
I meainu nāu?	<i>Would you like a drink?</i>
I wai na'u (ke 'olu'olu).	<i>I'll have some water (please).</i>
I wai hua'ai na'u.	<i>I'll have some juice.</i>
'Ono au i ka 'ōhelo papa.	<i>I'm craving strawberries.</i>
'Ono loa kēia!	<i>This is delicious!</i>
Na wai kēia mea'ai i hana?	<i>Who made this food?</i>
Na _____ i hana.	<i>It was made by _____.</i>
I waho ana 'oe e 'ai ai?	<i>Are you going out to eat?</i>
'Ae, i _____ ana au.	<i>Yes, I'm going to _____.</i>
E hele kāua e 'ai.	<i>Let's (you and I) go eat.</i>
I hea?	<i>Where?</i>
I ka hale 'aina Mekiko.	<i>At the Mexican restaurant.</i>