

Ka Puana (Pronunciation)

Ka Pī‘āpā ‘Ōiwi (Hawaiian alphabet)

The pī‘āpā ‘ōiwi consists of 5 **woela** (vowels) and 8 **koneka** (consonants).

nā woela – a, e, i, o, u

nā koneka – h, k, l, m, n, p, w, ‘ (‘okina)

The individual vowel sounds in the alphabet are pronounced:

a – above **e** – bet **i** – eat **o** – pole **u** – moon

Ka Hakalama

The hakalama is a chant that was developed during the reign of King Liholiho to help the people learn reading and writing. The repetitive nature of the chant also helps to reinforce proper pronunciation of Hawaiian sounds. The hakalama is comprised of 80 consonant-vowel clusters and 10 vowel sounds. (*See the attached hua hakalama chart*).

Ka ‘Okina (glottal stop)

The ‘okina causes a break between two vowel sounds, like the word “uh-oh” in English. Its appearance is identical to a single open-quote mark (‘) looking like a 6. The tick mark (‘) is an acceptable variation of the ‘okina. The ‘okina is only placed between two vowels (as in the place name Ka‘a‘awa) and is never used next to another consonant (o‘lu).

Ke Kahakō (macron)

The kahakō (¯) is written as a line above a vowel, and is used to draw out and stress a vowel, as in the word “pūpū.” Kahakō never occur over a consonant.

nā woela kō (vowels with kahakō) – ā, ē, ī, ō, ū

E Puana Mai! (Pronounce it for me!)

Read the following five words aloud to your partner being careful to pronounce the ‘okina or kahakō sound. When your partner hears the ‘okina or kahakō, they will mark it on the word.

1. ka mīkini *(machine)*
2. ka ‘ūmi‘i *(staple)*
3. ka papa ke‘oke‘o *(whiteboard)*
4. ka ‘ūpā *(scissors)*
5. ke kelepa‘i *(fax)*

Listen to your partner pronounce the following five words. When you hear an ‘okina or kahakō sound, mark it on the word.

6. ke kini opala *(trash can)*
7. ke kawele pepa *(paper towel)*
8. ka alemanaka *(calendar)*
9. ka pahu kala *(cash box)*
10. ka papa hoikeike *(bulletin board)*

A

E Puana Mai! (Pronounce it for me!)

Listen to your partner pronounce the following five words. When you hear an 'okina or kahakō sound, mark it on the word.

1. ka mikini *(machine)*
2. ka umii *(staple)*
3. ka papa keokeo *(whiteboard)*
4. ka upa *(scissors)*
5. ke kelepai *(fax)*

Read the following five words aloud to your partner being careful to pronounce the 'okina or kahakō sound. When your partner hears the 'okina or kahakō, they will mark it on the word.

6. ke kini 'ōpala *(trash can)*
7. ke kāwele pepa *(paper towel)*
8. ka 'alemanaka *(calendar)*
9. ka pahu kālā *(cash box)*
10. ka papa hō'ike'ike *(bulletin board)*

E

Common Mispronunciations

Hawaiian words that end with two vowels side-by-side can be difficult to pronounce. The most common mispronunciations of vowels are between these pairs:

au & ao

ai & ae

oi & oe

ou & ō

ei & ē

For example, the word “pau” is commonly mispronounced as “pao.” “Pau” means “finish, complete” whereas “pao” means “to scoop out, peck, chisel out.”

Another common mispronunciation is to “drop” the second vowel completely, as in the word “lei,” commonly mispronounced as “lē.” Again, you end up with two completely different meanings—“lei” is a garland worn around the neck, and “lē” means to “go about aimlessly, be lazy.”

“w” or “v”?

The eight consonants in Hawaiian each have a single sound associated with them, with the exception of the “w”—which has two sounds. The “w” can also be pronounced with a “v” sound (as in *Hawai‘i*). The “w” or “v” sounds are interchangeable and does not affect the meaning of the word, as in the following examples:

wai (*water*)

manawa (*time*)

wahine (*woman*)

waena (*between*)

wa‘a (*canoe*)

wahi (*place*)

One exception to the above, is that when the “w” is surrounded on either side by an “i” or “e,” it is usually pronounced with the “v” sound:

‘iwa (*type of bird*)

wili (*to twist*)

wehi (*adornment*)

ha‘awina (*lesson*)

wehe (*to open*)

‘eiwa (*nine*)

Use these cards to practice the different huēwoela.

ae

ai

ao

au

ea

ei

eo

eu

ia

ie

io

iu

oa

oe

oi

ou

ua

ue

ui

uo

Ha'awina Puana (Pronunciation Activity)

Read the following words aloud to your partner being careful to pronounce the correct ending vowel sound.

1. kai
2. nou
3. hau
4. koe
5. pō
6. mei
7. noe
8. hae

Write the word that you hear on the lines below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

A

Ha'awina Puana (Pronunciation Activity)

Write the word that you hear on the lines below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Read the following words aloud to your partner being careful to pronounce the correct ending vowel sound.

1. lau
2. mē
3. kou
4. wae
5. mai
6. poi
7. kō
8. hao

Ka Hakalama

ha	ka	la	ma	na	pa	wa	‘a
hā	kā	lā	mā	nā	pā	wā	‘ā
he	ke	le	me	ne	pe	we	‘e
hē	kē	lē	mē	nē	pē	wē	‘ē
hi	ki	li	mi	ni	pi	wi	‘i
hī	kī	lī	mī	nī	pī	wī	‘ī
ho	ko	lo	mo	no	po	wo	‘o
hō	kō	lō	mō	nō	pō	wō	‘ō
hu	ku	lu	mu	nu	pu	wu	‘u
hū	kū	lū	mū	nū	pū	wū	‘ū

a	e	i	o	u
ā	ē	ī	ō	ū
