

The **pī‘āpā ‘ōiwi** (Hawaiian alphabet) consists of 5 vowels and 8 consonants:

nā woela (vowels) – a, e, i, o, u

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

vowel pronunciation guide:

a – **above** (aloha, Hawai‘i)
e – **bet** (‘elepaio, Pele)
i – **easy** (Hilo, Hawai‘i)
o – **pole** (Kona, Kohala, Honolulu)
u – **moon** (Puna, lehua)

The **‘okina** is a glottal stop, as in the word oh-oh. It’s written as a backwards apostrophe (‘) like a single open quote or a tiny number 6.

la‘ana (example): Hale ‘Ikena, Hale Kuamo‘o, Ka Haka ‘Ula O
Ke‘elikōlani, Nā Pua No‘eau, Ka‘ū, Kea‘au

The **kahakō** is a macron. It elongates a vowel, as in the word Ka‘ū. It’s written as a line above a vowel (-) as in ā, ē, ī, ō, ū.

la‘ana: Nā Pua No‘eau, A‘ohōkū, Kāwili, Ka‘ū

Here are some rules to follow when spelling in Hawaiian:

1. Every word has at least one vowel.
2. There are no consonant clusters.
3. Words cannot end with a consonant.
4. A kahakō only occurs over a vowel.

Put a check next to the combinations of letters below which violate one or more Hawaiian spelling rules and write the number(s) of the corresponding rule(s) that is/are being broken:

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. i‘a | 2. klipa | 3. mahana |
| 4. molow | 5. uōuō | 6. wale |
| 7. pāpale | 8. hilo | 9. o‘lu |
| 10. ulu‘ | 11. kp | 12. ‘ae‘a |

The **hakalama** is a Hawaiian syllabary used to teach spelling and pronunciation by syllables. It is made up of 90 **huahakalama** (syllabary symbols). There are 80 consonant-vowel clusters and 10 vowel sounds. In the name Kamehameha, there are 5 huahakalama: Ka | me | ha | me | ha.

Count and identify the huahakalama used to spell each word below:

	<u>huahakalama</u>	<u># of huahakalama</u>
1. mālama	<i>mā – la – ma</i>	3
2. mo‘o		
3. ha‘aheo		
4. kalahea		
5. ‘Imiloa		
6. aloha		
7. kuamo‘o		
8. mahalo		
9. Kūhiō		
10. Ke‘elikōlani		

It’s helpful to use hakalama when pronouncing Hawaiian words. Here is a list of words that are commonly mispronounced. Practice using hakalama to pronounce these words first incorrectly then correctly. Can you hear the difference?

Incorrect

Correct

kuliana

kuleana (responsibility)

poki

poke (way of preparing raw fish)

maili

maile (native twining shrub)

pikaki

pīkake (a flower)

lilikoe

liliko‘i (a fruit)

Hanalulu

Honolulu (place)

Kameamea

Kamehameha (a chief)