

## KANA

## A LEGEND OF HAWAII

Kana was the grandson of Uli, the supernatural woman who was married to the god Ku. Uli was born in Hilo. One of her brothers, Manua, lived in the underworld. Another brother, Wakea, had his home in the land where all the islands were born. They were all very high chiefs.

To Uli and Ku was born a very beautiful child whom they called Haka-lani-leo, the Listener-to-the-Heavenly-Voice. As Haka-lani-leo grew older, she became the most beautiful woman of her time. Her skin was like the sun as it rises, or like the feathers of the *mamo*.

Haka-lani-leo married Ha'ka, King of Hilo, and to this union twelve sons were born. Eleven of these children possessed supernatural powers. Ten of them were ten feet tall. The eleventh son, Niheu, was much shorter than his brothers, being only five feet in height. Great wisdom was given to him. He could count even the hairs of his head.

These boys liked to test their strength by trying to lift a large ulua, ten fathoms and a yard long, that lived in the pond at Waiakea. Each boy would try to lift this fish to his shoulder. None succeeded but the small Niheu.

The twelfth and youngest son of Haka-lani-leo, Kana, came into the world in the form of a piece of rope and was at once thrown into the pig pen. The spirit of this child went to his grandmother, Uli, and begged her to save him. Uli departed at once for Hilo.

When the people saw her coming they called, "There comes the old woman, Uli. What brings her here? She has never come when her other grandsons were born."

As soon as Uli reached her daughter's home she asked, "Where is the little stranger that has come?"

"No stranger has come. We saw only a piece of rope which we threw into the pig pen," someone answered. "What do you want it for?"

Uli was led to the spot where the rope had been thrown. A pig was just about to devour this strange looking object, but Uli picked it up and placed it in her calabash. When she reached her home she put the piece of rope into a calabash of water, saying, "It will never do if you come forth from the water with a pig's snout."

Uli watched the water closely and when she saw a snout appearing she quickly placed the rope in another calabash of water and soon a child appeared.

The happy grandmother placed the baby on the mats, and made a bower of maile, ieie and lehua branches to shade it from the sun. Then Uli went to work in her garden, which was very dear to her, and in which she was always busy.

About noon the grandmother returned and stopped the child's crying by food. So Uli cared for her youngest grandson for forty days. By that time he was forty fathoms long. As he grew in stature she enlarged the bower over him.

On the celebrated hill, Haupu, on the island of Molokai, lived Keoloewa, the king. With him were Pepee, Crooked-One, his general; Mo-i, High-Chief, his *kahuna*; Moikeha, the High-Chief-who-Objects, his astrologer; and his three plover messengers, Kolea, or Plover; Ulili, or Sand-Piper; and Akekeke, or Snipe.

One day the king decided that he would marry, so he sent his bird messengers to find the most beautiful woman on earth, whose skin should be like the rising sun. The birds flew everywhere, looking for a woman who would answer the king's description. They found none until they had returned to Hilo and there they saw Haka-lani-leo, the most beautiful woman in the world, bathing in the sea by night.

At once the birds flew back to their king and told him that they had seen a woman whose skin was like the *oo* and all the other beautiful birds of Hawaii.

Keoloewa decided that this wonderful woman should be his wife. He ordered a double canoe prepared for the journey. The birds flew ahead to show the way. They came to the harbor of Hilo just at dusk. There they waited patiently until the first cock crowed, and then they heard a sweet voice singing. The canoe was drifting in the water, where this beautiful woman usually rode the surf.

Just as Haka-lani-leo noticed the dark object, a voice called to her, "O beautiful woman, come here and rest before you ride the surf."

The woman swam to the canoe and getting into it was lost in admiration of its decorations which were made of the feathers of beautiful birds. It was not until the canoe was being rapidly paddled for Molokai, that she realized that she was being carried away. Then she began to mourn for her husband and her home at Hilo.

As the days passed and his wife did not return, Ha'ka sent his people to hunt on land and sea for her. She had disappeared completely. No one could find her.

Then the king called his eleven sons together and asked each one what he should do to find their beautiful mother. He came at last to Niheu who, absently stirring up the fire with a long stick, answered in these

words: "The sea divides Hawaii from Molokai, where the wife you are weeping for is held a prisoner in the strong fortress of Haupu."

This answer made the king angry with Niheu whom he taunted because of his size. Niheu showed that even though he was small he was very strong. He jumped to the top of his house and, seizing the rafters, pulled the building down. Then he beat the ground with his stick and formed eight valleys with precipices so high that only the *koae*, the huge white tropic birds, could fly to their summits.

After he had done these things he said to his father, "Now you have seen what strength I have. But, alas, my strength is great only on this island. If my mother were on Hawaii I could get her for you, but she is on Molokai."

One day when Uli and her grandson, Kana, were working in their garden in the mountains they heard a great shouting coming from the seashore. Uli said that Kana's brothers were trying to lift the large ulua.

When Kana heard what his brothers were doing he was very anxious to test his strength with them. So he waited until his grandmother was busy, and then, after having shortened his body, he secretly hurried towards the spot where the boys were trying to lift the fish to their shoulders.

As he neared the pond of Waiakea, Kana asked the children why there was such a great noise. They replied that the chiefs were trying to lift the big fish, but only the smallest chief could do it.

Kana was greatly surprised that his tall brothers could not lift the fish, and said to the children, "Those men must be very weak if they cannot lift that fish."

One of the children told the chiefs that an unknown boy was making fun of their strength. He was led before them and one of the brothers asked, "Did you say that we were weaklings because we could not carry this fish? Try to lift the fish yourself, if such strength belongs to you."

Kana at once jumped into the pond and turned the head of the fish towards the deep water. As the fish swam into the sea Kana held on to its tail and was carried to Keahua and then back to the pond again. There he easily lifted the fish to his shoulder, and walked away with it.

When the astonished crowd saw this demonstration of strength, they cried, "This is the strongest boy of all."

These words angered the older chiefs, who felt that their strength had been ridiculed in the eyes of the people, for strength was possessed by those of high birth only, and to have a boy of unknown parentage surpass them was a great insult.

So Niheu cried that the boy was carrying the fish, belonging to the chiefs, to his heiau, where he would sacrifice it in gratitude for his strength.

In fact Kana's only thought was to carry his prize home to his grandmother. As he passed the heiau of Niheu, Kana was seized and carried into the heiau where he was tied to the main post. Leaving him there, his captors carried the fish back to the pond. It had been out of water so long that it was very weak.

As Uli was working in her fields, the thought came to her that all was not well with her grandson, Kana. So, not finding him at home, she hurried to her other grandchildren.

When Niheu saw her he asked, "Do you know who that boy is, who tried to steal our fish? We have tied him up in the heiau for attempting to carry off the chiefs' fish."

Uli looked at the captive and at once saw that he was Kana. Turning to Niheu she replied, "That boy is no thief. He is your lord. You were born as a child. He was born as a piece of rope. That is the reason you did not know your brother."

Then Uli told Kana to walk. At once all his ropes fell off, and in his anger he began to tear down the heiau. Uli, fearing that the boy would entirely destroy the sacred place, ordered him to return with her to their mountain home.

As soon as the brothers had recovered from their surprise over the knowledge that Kana was living with their grandmother, Niheu told them that he was going into the mountains to build canoes with which to go to Molokai in search of his mother.

In the mountains he looked for timber suitable for his canoe. He soon found two wiliwili trees, seven feet in diameter.

The following day he felled these trees with two mighty strokes of his ax and commenced hewing them out. By evening he had almost finished them, so he decided to return in the morning.

Niheu was unable to sleep that night because he was very anxious about his canoes. As soon as daylight came, he hurried to the place where he was building them and was greatly astonished to find them standing up and growing again. He left them and looked for other trees suitable for canoes.

Having found two koa trees, Niheu cut them down with two strokes and, as on the previous day, almost finished the canoes by evening. Again he went home for the night.

At daylight he returned to the spot where he had left his unfinished canoes. He found these standing up and growing. The boy was very angry and muttered to himself, "This is the work of my grandmother, Uli. She wishes to bring my work to naught. She is a cruel woman to cast this spell upon me. I shall kill her."

For four days Niheu wandered here and there in the woods, hunting for Uli's home. At last Uli came upon him and asked: "Why have you wandered in the forest so long?"

Niheu replied, "You will soon see why I am here. I am going to kill you now."

To these words of her grandson, Uli replied, "Is death the gift you bring to me? I have done you no wrong. Why did you not come to me and tell me that you needed canoes? I would have told you how to build them. It is not I, but your forefathers, the first builders of canoes, who are now in the nether world, who will not allow you to fell the trees for canoes until they have been appeased. Kill me, if you wish, but then you will never be able to build canoes. Spare me, come home with me, and eat and drink. Then you shall go home and find a black pig without any white hairs. While you are gone, I shall prepare the *awa* root, the large calabash, and the grass to strain the *awa*. Thus with my help you can succeed."

These words appeased Niheu and he followed his grandmother into her house. While he was eating, he looked about for his new found brother, Kana, but did not see him. As soon as he was refreshed, he hurried home and, finding the things Uli had mentioned, he brought them back and laid them at her feet. Then Uli told him to search in the forest until he found two lehua trees. After having felled and topped these, he should return to her.

Niheu followed his grandmother's instructions. Then she gave him the *awa* root and the black pig, which he carried to the place where the trees were lying. Having built an *imu* he killed and cooked the pig and prepared the *awa*. When all was ready Niheu called his ancestors to come and eat the food he had prepared for them. Then Niheu concealed himself under the branches of the trees.

Soon he saw his strange looking forefathers gathering around the table. After they had eaten the food one of their number, Kaikupakee by name, tried to put the tops of the trees onto the trees again. Niheu caught him and held him, saying that he was going to kill him. Kaikupakee answered that if he were killed Niheu's canoe would never be finished. So he was released and at once called out, "I will not build your canoes!"

Poor Niheu was very much discouraged, and hurried to his grandmother to tell her his troubles. Uli comforted the boy with these words: "Your canoes will be finished. Take this flag to the place where the trees lie, and with it mark out the size you wish the canoes to be."

Niheu did as Uli said, and then waited until darkness fell. Nothing was done to the trees that night, but the following night he heard voices saying, "Come, let us finish Niheu's canoes."

Then a wonderful thing happened. The canoes were instantly finished and a canoe house was built. After the ancestors had pulled the canoes under shelter they disappeared.

Early in the morning Niheu went to see what had been done and was greatly astonished to see everything finished. Happiness filled his heart. Looking for food, he came upon a house which he entered. There he saw several coils of rope. Niheu was very glad to see this rope for he needed it to pull his canoes to the sea. He also saw two sticks bent suitably for lashing his canoes together.

Just as Niheu was congratulating himself on his good luck the rope began to uncoil and Kana stood before his astonished brother, who was so frightened that he ran and jumped down a high *pali*. Kana stretched out his arms and rescued the falling boy. Bringing him back, he asked why he had jumped over the *pali*.

Niheu replied, "I jumped over that *pali* because I was anxious to see the handsome people who live down below. You caught me before I saw them."

To this falsehood Kana answered, "You are not speaking the truth. You ran because you saw my big eyes looking at you."

Niheu confessed this to be true. Then he hurried back to his grandmother and told her that the canoes had been finished as she had foretold. He asked her where the grandson lived, who had carried the ulua and whom she had called the lord of himself and his brothers, for that grandson must go to Molokai in search of his beautiful mother.

Uli at first did not want Niheu to take Kana away, but at last she consented, on condition that he be well treated.

Niheu found Kana and made known his errand. Kana consented to help his brother and explained the details of his plan. Niheu was to arrange his brothers and their followers in a long line extending from the mountains to the sea, with himself nearest the sea. These men must all be strong as the canoes were to slide down their shoulders to the sea.

When Kana saw that the long line of men was arranged he pushed the canoes with such force that they slid towards the sea like the wind, destroying everything in their way. The men tried to stop the canoes but were knocked down and killed.

As the canoes were sliding by Niheu, he caught hold of the *manu*, the carved prows, and tried to stop them, but was unable to do so until he had been carried out to deep water. After he had anchored the canoes,

he swam ashore and heard the great wailing over the sudden death of his older brothers.

Niheu hurried to Uli and Kana to tell them the sad news. Kana then told his brother to call the astrologer and the crews for the canoes. After everything was prepared, the people carried Kana to the sea.

Mo-i, the famous *kahuna* of Molokai, saw all these preparations to rescue Haka-lani-leo going on, on Hawaii. He called the plover and said, "Go to our lord, the King, and say that I have had a dream. If he wishes to escape harm he must return the woman he has stolen. If he refuses to do this, dire calamity will befall him. The crop of coconuts and taro will fail. A-a, small lava stones, will cover the land."

The plover flew to the entrance of the palace and made known to the king the dream of his *kahuna*. The king answered that no soldier was brave enough to come to Molokai and attempt to conquer her king.

Soon after, Mo-i slept and dreamed again. The plover, seeing his lips move, awakened him and asked why he was muttering in his sleep. Mo-i sent the plover to warn the king to send back the woman before the wards of Uli should come to rescue her, and to bring disaster to Molokai.

The king, in anger, sent his messenger to tell Mo-i to dream no more, or he would be punished.

Keoloewa then called his body guard of plovers, and told them to fly over the world to see if any soldiers were preparing for a trip to Molokai. The plovers flew everywhere and, seeing no soldiers, all but one returned to the king. This one plover remained on Hawaii. He flew into the house of Uli. Then he went to Hilo and ran along the beach until he became thirsty. After he had gone to a stream for a drink, he flew back to the beach where he saw the tracks of a man in the sand. Each track was a fathom long and a yard wide.

With this information the plover returned to Molokai where he found that the king had built a big fire, to put to death the bird messengers because they had brought no news to him. When the king heard the report of the one plover who had stayed behind, he put out the fire and spared the lives of the others. He believed that there was no strong man on Hawaii as the messengers had seen none.

In the meantime Mo-i dreamed again and as before sent the plover to the king with this message: "O King, return the woman within three days, or the war canoes will be seen approaching our island. In my dream I saw a figure flying above the fortress of Haupu. The head was higher than the mountain. The eyes were as bright as the evening star."

The king was very angry and ordered his soldiers to bring Mo-i before him. Then he sent for Moikeha, the sister of Mo-i, who could tell him if there was any truth in the words of her brother.

When Moikeha came before the king, he told her of the frequent warnings he had received from Mo-i. He said that he did not desire to return the beautiful woman he had stolen.

After hearing the king's message, Moikeha began her rites. She took a large calabash full of water and covered it with tapa. While she was doing this she heard the voice of Mo-i muttering: "Look well to what you are doing and you will see the big eyes of a man standing in the sea. He is coming for the woman who is held here without good cause. If he reaches the island, all will be destroyed. He is so tall that his head is higher than the fortress of Haupu."

As soon as Mo-i had ceased talking, his sister began to pray. While she prayed, a violent earthquake shook the land. When Moikeha removed the tapa from the calabash, she and Mo-i saw a pair of eyes as bright as the moon shining in the water. Then Moikeha knew that the dreams of her brother were true and she warned the king to return his captive to Hawaii.

The king would not listen to this advice and answered, "I will not return my prize. I am able to lift up my island until the fortress reaches the clouds. No man is tall enough to overlook it then."

Mo-i answered that the ward of Uli was able to become taller than any fortress. In fear, the people prepared for the day when the war canoes would reach their island. The king still listened not to the earnest entreaties of his generals and soldiers to return Haka-lani-leo, the beautiful woman of Hawaii.

Meanwhile, on Hawaii, Kana was making his preparations for the journey. He told Niheu to leave behind all the soldiers and paddlers, and to take with them only Pohaku, the Stone, a trusted companion. When all was prepared, the people wrapped Kana in mats, using one thousand of them to cover him. Then they placed him on the *pola*, the frame joining the double canoe.

As they put out to sea, the tide and the currents were against them. Many evil *akua* of the sea tried to delay them. The sword-fish tried to destroy the canoe, but Pohaku lowered himself to the side of the canoe and the fish, striking against the stone of his body, was destroyed. This was the last of their troubles.

Soon they lay off Molokai. The people watching for war canoes were surprised to see a canoe with only one man paddling. A messenger was sent to ask if this was a war or a pleasure canoe. When Niheu answered



that it was a war canoe, the king ordered war preparations to be carried out. In a short time the fortress was filled with soldiers ready to fight for their king.

In the meantime the canoe had landed, and Niheu had commenced to climb up the steep cliff by the aid of his long spear. The people believed that this small man was only a boy, but they wondered at the size of his spear.

Haka-lani-leo, safely guarded in the fortress, heard the words of the soldiers and, ordering them to stand aside, saw the man scaling the cliff and recognized her son, Niheu. Bitterly she wailed for the dear husband and strong sons from whom she had been torn.

The king gave his order to kill Niheu should he try to enter the fortress. But when the soldiers refused to allow him to enter, he struck them down with his spear. Then, using his spear as a bridge, he entered the fortress and rescued his mother. Placing her on his back, he crossed again on his spear and walked safely away.

As Mo-i saw the mother and her son going down the cliff, he called to the plover, "Anyone who is brave enough to pull some hairs from the head of Niheu can destroy his strength."

One of the plovers bravely descended the hill, and pulled five hairs from Niheu's head. Niheu stopped to count his hairs and, finding that five were gone, he cried out, "What slave has dared to steal some of my hair?"

In his anger Niheu dropped his mother and at once the soldiers seized her and carried her back to the fortress. Poor Niheu! He had lost both hair and mother! He was most unhappy. He sent his spear to find the person who had stolen his five precious hairs. It soon caught the plover and brought him, pinioned on its sharp point, to earth at Niheu's feet.

Niheu then rolled down the cliff, breaking his arm and injuring his leg. Weeping, he came to the canoe, and accused his brother of having sent him on this errand because he was small.

Kana was very angry, for he knew that now they would have a great deal of trouble in rescuing their mother again. Kana turned over in the mats and having thus broken the ropes, stood up. The king saw that this man was taller than his fortress, just as Mo-i had said. He ordered his turtles to raise the fortress. As Haupu was slowly raised higher and higher, Kana stretched his body, first his human body, then his rope body, next his convolvulus-vine body, his banana body, and last his spider web body.

When Niheu saw his brother in this strange form, he began to cry that he had been killed. He called out, "Kana, come down again to Uli."

Kana heard his brother's words and lowered his head into Hilo while his feet were still on Molokai. Uli knew that her grandchild was in some trouble, and she was very angry with Niheu, who had thought more of a few hairs of his head than of saving his beautiful mother.

Uli brought food to Kana. He ate all the food that was in the calabash. He ate all the food that was in the garden,—taro, potatoes and bananas. As Kana took this nourishment his feet on Molokai began to grow. When Niheu saw the feet growing, he began to chop at them with a stone.

Kana called to his grandmother, "My feet are in pain. What is the trouble?"

Uli explained to him that Niheu was angry because he was hungry. So Kana promised to take him a hill of sweet potatoes.

Uli also explained to Kana that he must return to Molokai and break the backs of the turtles, so that they could not lift Haupu any higher.

Having heard these words Kana raised his head, and when the turtles tried to lift up the fortress he crushed them to death and pressed the mountain down to its original size. Niheu then climbed up and carried his mother down to the canoe.

The terrified people tried to escape but were driven over the *pali* by the big eyes of Kana. Only Mo-i and his sister escaped.

Kana cut Haupu off from the mainland. He gave the kingdom of Molokai to Hookekua, the king of Kekaha. Then he sent Niheu to Hawaii with his mother, and began his travels.

From Molokai Kana crossed to Oahu whence he soon went to Kipukai, on Kauai. There he saw the beautiful sisters of Kaneike. He traveled on until he reached Kalalau, where he frightened Kahuanui, Big-Foundations, who was making tapa, by stretching himself until his head reached the clouds.

Niihau was next visited by the traveler. After seeing the celebrated mat-weaver and the interesting points he stepped back to Kauai at a place called Ke'e, near Kalalau, which is called to this day, Kapuai-a-Kana, The-Imprint-of-Kana's-Foot. Wherever Kana traveled on Kauai and Niihau he killed the *akua* who were destroying the people.

At last Kana returned to Hawaii, where he found all the chiefs living happily. Niheu asked him to go around Hawaii with him. While they were staying in Kona, Niheu heard the people complaining because their king, Kahoalei, the Friend-of-the-Lei, made them cook food and fish for

him. Niheu decided to talk with the king's messenger when he came with orders for the people, and so called to the man, but he ran away. Niheu followed and catching the poor fellow broke his back.

After this little adventure Niheu returned to Hilo. There his grandmother greeted him with these words: "You have been up to mischief. Your actions will bring trouble to us. Bring your brother to me before the calamity befalls us."

In the meantime Kahoalei had waited until midnight of the third night for the return of his messenger. At that hour the messenger crawled before his king, begging mercy and saying that he had been badly treated by the grandson of Uli.

Kahoalei was very angry and cried, "I shall punish Niheu. I shall take from Hawaii the sun, the moon, and the stars. Only where I am, shall there be light."

After Uli had sent Niheu to find Kana, she fastened a rope to the door of her house and then carried the rope to the sea, so that if the threatened darkness befell the land, she could find her way to and from the ocean. The people, seeing this, wondered what Uli was doing.

As soon as Niheu found his brother he started for Hilo with Kana on his back. They had gone only a short distance, when the sun was taken from the heavens and they had to feel their way. Kana then stretched his head about the clouds and so reached Uli's house.

"So you have come," said his grandmother. "I sent for you because I knew you were the only person who could recover the sun. Go now and find it. It is hidden under the earth. Before you go, see if there is any light in the sky. If there is, come and tell me."

Kana stretched his body until he reached the sky, where he found light. When he had reported this to Uli she said, "Take your brother with you and go up as far as your body will take you. The place that you will touch when you bend over will be Kahiki, and there you will find a spring. If anyone asks you your name, say 'I am yours and Uli's.'"

With these instructions Kana started on his wonderful journey. When they reached the heavens, Niheu was chilled through and through, and so was left behind to die. Kana fell to Kahiki. The two old people there were startled by the noise of his fall, and each tried to make the other find what had fallen near them.

At last the old woman went out and seeing a white object in the spring tried to catch it with a stick. Failing to do this, she asked the object what it was and was surprised to hear it answer, "I am yours and Uli's."

Crying, "Oh my grandson!" the old woman carried Kana to her husband. They fed him until his strength returned and then asked him if he had come for the sun. When he replied that such was his errand, they gave him two guides who led the way. They sent a fire in front to show them the way and a wind behind to help them on.

When they reached the line dividing the kingdom from the land of the keepers of the spring, the guides left Kana, telling him to go wherever the wind directed.

So Kana journeyed on alone until he came to the guard, Manu-a, sitting by the king's door. Manu-a was friendly, and, urging the stranger to sit down by him, told him how he had to sit there, and watch the king and his followers eat and play while the cold rain fell upon him.

Kana was greatly interested. Soon he saw how the king got his food. He lifted a stone that covered a large hole in the sky and lowered his hand which was quickly filled with food by the people below.

While the king and his men were eating, the guard said to Kana, "Wait with me until they have finished. Then they will return the dishes and what remains of the food. Prop up the stone with your foot. They will think the hole is closed and will go back to their game. Then we may eat."

Kana did as he was told, and when they were alone he lowered his hand through the hole. As he did so the people saw a large black hand and they knew it was not the king's hand. Someone said, "This hand must belong to a soldier. No wonder it is fat. He sits and plays games all day while we labor for him. Perhaps even now he is demanding more food."

However, Kana's relatives recognized his hand, and filled it with food. Manu-a told him to drop the food. Then his hand was filled with water. This Kana also dropped. They next tried birds which the guard ordered up. These birds called out, "*Kiawe*," the call of the long-legged fish-hawk, and the friends of the king thought that day had come. The king told them that there were no birds there.

Kana again lowered his hand, and it was filled with stars, which he threw into the heavens where they gave light. Then the moon was placed in his hand. Kana put it into the blue sky, where it remained giving light. He was next given all kinds of birds and fowl, and for the first time the rooster broke the morning stillness by crowing.

Yet again Kana lowered his hand through the magic hole in the sky. This time he was given the sun, which he placed in the sky, having received its solemn promise never to disappear again. Since that day no magic power has been able to deprive the people on earth of the great sun.

When the sun rose the king hurried out to see who was interfering with his powers. Kana was about to kill him, but was stopped by the king's promise to bring Niheu to life again.

As soon as Niheu was restored to life, Kana, accompanied by the king, stretched his body and returned to the house of Uli.

This was the king's first visit to this part of his kingdom, and so he planned to visit all parts of it. A canoe made of white chicken feathers carried him from place to place. So he traveled over the world for two years, conquering all lands. At the end of that time he returned to Hawaii and was deeply grieved to hear that the mighty Niheu and the artful Kana had died. He established his kingdom on the island of Hawaii, and collecting worthy ministers, ruled for many years.

#### KAUAI LEGENDS OF KANA

When Kana came from Oahu, wading through the sea, to Kipukai, Kauai, the turtles were raising up the hill of Haupu. Kana was afraid that it would reach too high, so he stretched himself up until his body was no larger than a spider's web. When he was tall enough, he put his foot on top of the mountain and crushed it down. So, now, three ridges run out from Haupu. He found his brother Niheu starving in Kipukai, and so he said he could relieve his brother's hunger. He lay down and stretched his body until his head reached the place where his grandmother was living, on the hills back of Wahiawa. Then he called to his brother to cut his toe, and when Uli fed Kana *poi*, it ran through his body, and reached Kipukai, where Niheu sucked it out. Thus he saved his brother's life.

After Niheu had been fed, Kana found that his grandmother was making tapa, but the sun came up and went down so fast that there was no time for the tapa to dry. So Kana said he could make the days longer. He ordered all the people on the western side of the island to save all the coconut fiber and to braid it into ropes. When plenty of rope had been made, Kana stood on the top of the hill with the ropes coiled near him, and when the sun came up he lassoed it, and broke off some of the spokes. To this day, when the sun comes up, you can see that some of its spokes are shorter than the others, and those are the spokes which Kana broke. The sun then begged him to let it go. Kana said he would if the sun would promise to go slower, so as to make the days longer so that Uli would have time to dry her tapa. The sun agreed, and to this day has kept its promise. So we have to thank Kana for our long days.