

Ka Puana : Pronunciation

(Note: This is meant to be a guide to spelling pronunciation. For a more in-depth look at pronunciation of Hawaiian words, please consult the Hawaiian Dictionary by Mary Kawena Pukui and Samuel Elbert.)

Vowels:

A = ah

E = eh

I = eeh

O = oh

U = ooh

Consonants:

H = heh

K = kay

L = lah

M = moo

N = noo

P = pee

W = vay

‘ = oh-kee-nah

kahakō (line over vowels) = koh

(Note: Pronunciation will vary from person to person in the beginning stages of speaking Hawaiian based on one's own personal vocal tones. To attain a proper Hawaiian sound, Please consult a native or bilingual speaker to help with your pronunciation.

Also, to avoid possible confusion over the use of the kahakō...when asked to spell a word aloud, we refer to the kahakō as "kō", and utter it after the vowel that the kahakō goes over. (ex. Lāna'i = "lah - ah - koh - noo - ah - ohkeenah - eeh")