

Lono

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Lono, the messenger, with restless eyes and many formed cloud-bodies, came to Hawaii with the rushing of heavenly sound as a voice coming over the water.¹³ Landing first on Maui, he brought with him the techniques of the farmer and became patron of the fertility of the land. As such he was represented in the men's eating house of each family by a gourd covered with wickerwork and hung by strings attached to a notched stick. Food, fish, and 'awa were kept inside the gourd.¹⁴

As the patron of agriculture, Lono is closely associated with sweet potatoes, pigs, gourds, rain clouds, and heavy rain. As Lono-puha, he is also the major patron of the *kahuna la'au lapa'au* or herbal doctor. In this form he is associated with many medical plants.

The following is a prayer to Lono said when offering food.

E Loni-i-ka-po,
E Lono-i-ke-ao.
E Lono-i-ke-ka'ina o mua
E Lono-nui-a-Hina
Mai 'aniha mai 'oe iau, e Lono.
E Lono maka hialele,
A lele 'oe i ke kai uli,
A lele 'oe i ke kai kea,¹⁵
I one huli la, i one 'ele,
I mahinahina,
I ke one i hanana
O pipipi, o unauna,
O 'alealea, o naka,
O hee, o kualakai,
O ka pakii moe one 'ula;
O ka 'ulas niho wakawaka 'oi;
O kama a 'opihi kau-pali
O kulele poo; o helele'i ke oho
O Waha-lau-alii; o Poli-hala;
O kahi i waiho ai o ka hua 'olelo
O Pii-ma-lana o 'Oheke;
O kama a Poepoe;
O ka wahine i ka ipu 'olelo;
E kama e i ke-ola nui;
Eia ka 'ai,
E Ku, e Lono, e Kane.
E Lono i ke ao uli e,
Eia ka 'ai.

O Lono in the night,
O Lono in the day.
O Lono of the leading forward
O great Lono given birth by Hina
Do not be unfriendly to me, o Lono.
O Lono of the restless sleepless eyes,
You fly to the dark sea,
You fly to the white sea,¹⁵
To the sand that seeks the sun, to the black sand
In the pale moonlight,
At the sand that was overflowed
Of small mollusks, hermit crabs,
Of 'alealea shellfish, of naka fish,
Of octopus, of sea slug,
Of the pakii flounder that lies on red sand;
Of the lizard fish with serrated sharp teeth;
Of offspring of the limpet that rests on the cliffs
Of head that scatters, of scattered hair
Of Waha-lau-alii, of Poli-hala;
Of the place that the word is left
Of Pii-ma-lana, together with 'Oheke;
Of offspring by Poepoe;
Of the woman of the voice gourd;
O offspring of the great life;
Here is the food
O Ku, o Lono, o Kane.
O Lono in the firmament,
Here is the food.¹⁶

Gutman's 1983: 6-7

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