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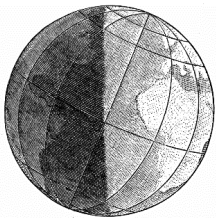
Summer Solstice



Right after the time of *Ikiki* comes *Ka`aona* in the Hawaiian calendar. The Summer Solstice — the moment when the sun is at its furthest point from the equator — occurs in *Ka`aona*. The word *solstice* comes from the Latin for *sun stands still*, and for several days before and after each solstice, the sun appears to stand still in the sky as it's noontime elevation does not seem to change. In the northern hemisphere the longest day and shortest night of the year occur on this date, marking the beginning of summer.

This year in Hawaii the event takes place at 7:46 p.m. on June 20th.

In ancient times solstices (and equinoxes) were important in guiding people to develop and maintain calendars, as well as helping them grow crops. It was important for people to understand the seasons and weather, which played a key role in their lives. In the Hawaiian calendar *Ikiki* (May-



June) marked the beginning of the summer, or *Kau* season. The farmer is busy harvesting his crops. It is a good time for hunting, and for readying all supplies for a great fishing season. *Moi* would be running this month, and it was a good

time for catching *a`u*, *ulua*, *`ula`ula*, *uhu*, *kawakawa* and *he`e*. The first *`ulu* of the season is ready and the *lehua* begin blossoming in the highest forests. It is the best time of the year for bird catchers.

Ka`aona (June-July) is a most pleasant time. The weather is fine, food is plentiful and fishing is good. The great schools of *`opelu* would be running, and one would need to prepare large surround nets. This is a fortunate time to marry, to construct a new house, or to build a new canoe.

Ka`aona

(June-July)

Children born in the time of *Ka`aona* were thought to be attractive and lovable.



FOCUS MAUI NUI is a community-driven vision for the future of our islands, spearheaded by Maui Economic Development Board, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the economic well-being of Maui County. VISIT www.FocusMauiNui.com or CALL 808.270.6801