

IMPROVE EDUCATION
PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT
ADDRESS INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES
ADOPT SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC STRATEGIES
MEET HUMAN NEEDS & PRESERVE LOCAL CULTURE

FOCUS OUR
MAUI ISLANDS
NUI OUR FUTURE

Own it!

March of the Ancestral Spirits



CALENDAR Hawaiian religion regulated the timing of most events and activities. Knowledge of the *Kaulana Mahina*, or the Hawaiian Lunar Calendar, is an integral framework for organizing time and daily activities necessary for Hawaiians. In ancient times, the months were marked by the appearance of different stars and constellations in the eastern sky at sunset. Through observation and the need to survive, Hawaiians learned to correlate the patterns of the environment, animals, fish, plants and people with certain phases of the moon. Their observations became pertinent to fishing, farming, working, playing, praying, and resting practices.

SEASONS There are two seasons in Hawaii, the cooler wetter season called *Ho'oilō*, and the hotter, drier season called *Kau*. *Ho'oilō* is the season when most farming and fishing gave way to tasks of making rope, fish hooks, farming tools, repairing houses, and making weapons and utensils. Women wove *lauhala* into mats and made *kapa* cloth. Toward the end of *Ho'oilō* farmers planted *kalo* (taro) and other crops requiring lots of water.

MONTHS We are now in *Makali'i* (December-January) the first month of the Hawaiian new year, which begins when the constellation Pleiades is on the horizon at sunset.

DAYS & NIGHTS December 25, 2008 is *Kane*, the 27th night of the Hawaiian Lunar calendar, that prescribes:

~ A day of prayer to the god *Kane*, the first of the gods, who is said to have created the universe.

Po Kane is a favorite of the *huaka'i po* (night marchers or ancestral spirits), who walk on this night. The ghostly procession of the Hawaiian god *Kane*, chiefs, chiefesses, priests and close attendants must never be interrupted. Legend has it that resting your eyes upon them could signal a grim fate. Witnesses are urged to be quiet, crouch low to the ground, 'play-dead' and avert the eyes. Night marchers are set upon their destination and not considered spirits that will deviate from their path to haunt humans.

If you look a
huaka'i po
(night marcher)
straight in
the eye,
you will
disappear.

~ Hawaiian Legend



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