

Hawaiian Proverbs involving Clouds

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	Hawaiian	English	Explanation
1	Ka malu ao o na pali kapu o Kaka'e	<i>The cloud shelter of the sacred cliffs of Kaka'e</i>	Kaka'e, an ancient ruler of Maui, was buried in 'Iao Valley, and the place was given his name. It was known as Na-pali-kapu-o-Kaka'e (Kaka'e's Sacred Precipice) or Na-pela-kapu-o-Kaka'e (Kaka'e's Sacred Flesh). Since that time, many high chiefs have shared his burial place.
2	Ki'eki'e ka lele a ke ao i ka lani, i hāpai 'ia eka makani i luna.	<i>High flies the cloud in the sky, lifted by the wind.</i>	Said of one whose position is elevated by a chief.
3	Makani luna ke lele 'ino mai la ke ao.	<i>There is wind from the upland, for the clouds are set a-flying.</i>	Signs of trouble are seen. This saying originated shortly after the completion of the Pu'ukoholā heiau by Kamehameha I. He sent Keouakuahu'ula to Kawaihae for a peace conference between them. Against the advice of his own high priest, Keouakuahu'ula went, taking his best warriors along with him. When outside of Māhukona, he saw canoes come out of Kawawihāe and realized that treachery awaited him. It was then that he uttered the words of this saying. His navigator pleaded with him to go back, but he refused. Arriving in Kawaihae, Keouakuahu'ula stepped off the canoe while uttering a chant in honor of Kamehameha. One of the latter's war leaders stepped up from behind and killed him. All of his followers were slaughtered except for Kaukahela, who hid and later found his way home, where he wailed the sad story.
4	Na maka o ka makani.	<i>Eyes of the wind.</i>	Clouds, which show the direction of the wind.
5	Ola i ka wai a ka 'ōpua	<i>There is life in the water from the clouds.</i>	Rain gives life
6	Ho'l ke ao o ke kuahiwi, ho'l ka makani ia Kumukahi.	<i>The cloud returns to the mountain, the wind returns to Kumukahi.</i>	Said of a group of people dispersed, each going to his own abode.

	Aia ka wai i ka maka o ka 'ōpua.	<i>Water is in the face of the 'ōpua clouds.</i>	In Kona, when the 'ōpua clouds appear in the morning, it's a sign that rain is to be expected. 'ōpua clouds are a bank of puffy clouds.
7	E nānā ana i ka 'ōpuao ka 'āina.	<i>Observing the horizon clouds of the land.</i>	Seeking to discover future events by observing the cloud omens
8	Kūkulu ka 'ike i ka 'ōpua	<i>Knowledge is set up in the clouds.</i>	Clouds are observed for signs and omens.
9	Kulu ka waimaka, uwē ka 'ōpua.	<i>Tears fall; the clouds weep.</i>	When rain falls at the time of a person's death or during his funeral, it is said, the gods mingle their tears with those of the mourners.
10	Māmā Kona i ka wai kau mai i ka maka o ka 'ōpua.	<i>Kona is lightened in having water in the face of the clouds.</i>	Kona is relieved, knowing that there will be no drought, when the clouds promise rain.
11	Aia i ka 'ōpua ke ola: he ola nui, he ola laulā, he ola hohonu, he ola ke'eki'e.	<i>Life is in the clouds: great life, broad life, deep life, elevated life.</i>	The reader of omens knows by their shape and color whether clouds promise rain and prosperity, or warn of disaster.
12	He hō'ailona ke ao i 'ike 'ia.	<i>Clouds are recognized signs.</i>	Clouds are recognized signs.
13	Ao 'ōpiopio.	<i>Young cloud.</i>	A cloud that rises from sea level or close to the cloud banks and is as white as steam. When see in Kona, Hawai'i, this is a sign of rain.
14	Ka'l ka pua'a i luna o Hā'upu, e ua ana.	When the pigs move around the summit of Hā'upu, it is going to rain	When puffy "pig" clouds encircle the top of Hā'upu, above Kīpū on Kaua'i, it is a sign of rain.
15	Kaka'i ka puapua'a i ka mālie, he 'ino.	When the piglets follow one after the other in the calm, it is a sign of bad weather.	When the clouds called ao puapua'a or pua'a, "pig" clouds, follow one after the other on the mountaintops in calm weather, bad weather is to be expected.
16	Ua noi i kea o ua 'ole.	Asked a rainless cloud.	Asked a favor of a hard person who refused to grant it. First uttered by Hi'iaka, who asked two surly lizard gods to permit her and her friends to cross Wailuku River in Hilo. The request was refused and battle was offered instead.
17	Pulu iho la i ka wai a ka nāulu.	Drenched by the water from the rain clouds.	Drunk.