

# ‘Ōlelo No‘eau Clouds

~Mary Kawena Pukui~

42 ***Aia i ka ‘ōpua ke ola: he ola nui, he ola laulā, he ola hohonu, he ola ki‘eki‘e.***

*Life is in the clouds: great life, broad life, deep life, elevated life.*

The reader of omens knows by their shape and color whether clouds promise rain and prosperity, or warn of disaster.

55 ***Aia ka wai i ka maka o ka ‘ōpua.***

*Water is in the face of the ‘ōpua clouds.*

In Kona, when the ‘ōpua clouds appear in the morning, it’s a sign that rain is to be expected.

232 ***Ao ‘ōpiopio.***

*Young cloud.*

A cloud that rises from sea level or close to the cloud banks and is as white as steam. When seen in Kona, Hawai‘i, this is a sign of rain.

356 ***E nānā ana i ka ‘ōpua o ka ‘āina.***

*Observing the horizon clouds of the land.*

Seeking to discover future events by observing the cloud omens.

580 ***He hō‘ailona ke ao i ‘ike ‘ia.***

*Clouds are recognized signs.*

1137 ***Huli ka lau o ka ‘ama‘u i uka, nui ka wai o kahawai.***

*When the leaves of the ‘ama‘u turn toward the upland, it is a sign of a flood.*

When the wind blows the leaves of the ‘ama‘u fern so that they bend toward the mountains it is also blowing clouds inland, which will produce rain.

1395 ***Ka‘i 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.

1416 ***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.

1513 ***Ka 'ohu wānana ua o Hā'upu.***

*The mist of Hā'upu that foretells rain.*

When clouds circle the peak of Hā'upu, Kaua'i, it is sure to rain.

1844 ***Kona, kai 'ōpua i ka la'i.***

*Kona, where the horizon clouds rest in the calm.*

1905 ***Kukui-lau-nui-o-Kona.***

*Thickly leafed kukui of Kona.*

A thick cloud that shuts out the light of the sun, like a heavily leafed kukui tree. This expression was used in the Kona district of Kaua'i.

1907 ***Kūkulu ka 'ike i ka 'ōpua.***

*Knowledge is set up in the clouds.*

Clouds are observed for signs and omens.

2134 ***Māmā Kona i ka wai kau mai i ka maka o ka 'ōpua.***

*Kona is lightened in having water in the face of the clouds.*

Kona is relieved, knowing that there will be no drought, when the clouds promise rain.

2259 ***Na maka o ka makani.***

*Eyes of the wind.*

Clouds, which show the direction of the wind.

2328 ***Noho no ke kanaka a ka lā mālie, kau ka ipu hōkeo a ka lawai'a, nānā ana i ka 'ōpua.***

*A person waits for a clear day, sets up the gourd that holds the fisherman's paraphernalia, and observes the clouds.*

To a fisherman, a clear day, his tools, and the signs and omens seen in the clouds are important.

2482 ***Ola i ka wai a ka 'ōpua.***

*There is life in the water from the clouds.*

Rain gives life.