

HAWAIIAN PANTHEON

There are several creation myths in the Hawaiian culture, passed down orally, through storytelling. Some stories focus on Kumulipo (the essence of darkness) and the female Po'ele (darkness itself). They are believed to have created the first creatures. Kumulipo is also the name given to the creation chant that is often sung in Hawaii, and here it has come to mean 'the first beginning', or 'the creation'.

HAUMEA is the goddess of procreation and childbirth.

KANALOA is the god of the underworld, who can teach magic. He appears in the shape of an octopus.

KAPO is the the fertility god.

KANE is the Hawaiian god of procreation and the sea. He is the ancestor of all human beings. Kane created the three worlds of sky, earth, and the 'upper' heaven. He was one of the four great gods who existed in the beginning. He is Ku's son.

KU was one of the four great gods who existed in the beginning. He created all the living creatures in and out of the sea and on the land and in the air.

LAKA is the Hawaiian goddess of plenty, of song and of dance. She is very popular and is married to Lono.

LONO is the Hawaiian god of song and agriculture. He descended on a rainbow to marry a Hawaiian girl who was actually the goddess Laka in disguise. He was one of the four great gods who existed in the beginning. He created the sun, the moon and the stars.

MAUI is the god who snared the sun because it was traveling too fast. He beat the sun until it agreed to travel much slower across the sky.

MILU was the lord of the spirit world.

PELE is the Hawaiian fire goddess. She is the daughter of the goddess Haumea and resides in the crater of the volcano Kilauea on Hawaii. She is savage and her jealous rages were believed to cause Kilauea's eruptions. Pele also controls lightning.

WAKEA is the creator god and first man. In one version, his wife Papa was a giant bird who laid an egg which opened and became the island of Hawaii. Soon, green trees grew there and Wakea and Papa went to live there themselves, as the first human beings.

