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HAWAIIAN TERMS USED IN POLYNESIAN VOYAGING

Prepared by the Polynesian Voyaging Society

'aha	the braided cord used in lashing the canoe made of pulu-niu (coconut husk fiber), olona' fiber, hau bark. Cordage made of pulu-niu was called 'aha-niu.
ama	the float on an outrigger canoe...the port hull of a double canoe. Also used to describe anything on the port side; manu hope o ke ama (the manu at the rear of the ama)
apo	the tie of the iako to the canoe
awa ku wa'a	the canoe harbor or anchorage
'awala	to pull in a line...to hoist a sail
'eku	the "snout" of the canoe, the leading edge or curve which cuts the water
elelo	a little protruberance at the tip of the paddle, a short rib, or thickening, extending up from the point of the paddle. Also called 'upe or io. Size: Bishop Museum collection averages 2.3" long, 5/16" wide, 1/4" thick. Found on the forward surface of the blade on ancient paddles. The blades of old paddles are flat on the back and slightly convex from side to side on the front surface.
Emi mai ka la!	Reduce the sail. . .ease the sheets
halau wa'a	canoe house
hauhoa	to tie or fasten the knots, or to lash up the canoe
heleuma	anchor
hoe	paddle
hoe kala	a narrow paddle
Hoe nanue	a paddle that is broad and round in the blade
hoe uli	steering paddle
Holu mai a ka la!	Play the sail!

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Hawaiian Terms Used in Polynesian Voyaging (continued)

Ho'ohu ka la!	Fill the sail! (haul in the sheets)
ho'oku'	to hold water with the paddles while the canoe is sailing...to brace a canoe with paddles (or steering paddle) while the canoe is sailing or coasting over waves in order to steer and steady the canoe
Ho'olala	turn aside out of one's course
ho'omakaukau!	get ready!
ho'omau	keep it up. steady as you go. continue persist
ho'opa'a	to make fast, firm, tight, solid; to bind; to hold fast to.
ho'opae	to go ashore
ho'opahua	to tack against the wind, sailing in a zig-zag course
huli akau	turn right
Huliamahi!	Pull together!
Huli 'ao'ao	to lean to one side. . . when sailing it is sometimes necessary to get the crew weight to the windward side to help stabilize the vessel
Huli hope	Turn back
hulilau	sailors calabash "sea chest" for carrying his personal items
huli pau	to capsize
'iako	the crossbooms which hold the hulls of a double canoe together, or fasten the float to the hull in an outrigger canoe
ka'i ka liu	to bail water out of the vessel
kanaka	on an outrigger canoe, the part of the ama extending aft of the after 'iako

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Hawaiian Terms Used in Polynesian Voyaging (continued)

kaula hope	backstay. . . line from mast to stern
kaula huki	the ha-liard (or halyard), line which hauls up the sail
kaula ihu	or polena, the forestay; line which fastens the mast to the bows. Also: furled, as a sail is furled. Made tight, as a knot is made tight
kaula ka'ili'ili	line from forward 'iako to bow to strengthen the iako on an outrigger canoe during storms or surfing
kaula luahine	the lashing line running along the side of the canoe (in the mo'o on Hokule'a) to which the pa'u (also ahu) (storm cover) is lashed
kaula paepae	the sheets (lines controlling the sails)
kawele	hoe kawele-to paddle moderately or slowly
kawelewele	the ropes used to lash up the canoe. Various lengths of rope carried on the canoe
kia	mast
kia hope	the aftermast
kia ihu	the foremast
kohe	the point of the tip of the blade
kowa'a	line for towing a canoe
ku!	stop!
kua	the splashguard
kua-'iako	the place on the canoe where the 'iako are fastened
kua-mo'o	the keel
kuapo'i	the arched or sometimes flat part of the manu, which was made as a cover which was lashed to the manu.

ku'au	the paddle handle
la hope	the aftersail
la ihu	the foresail (la, sail of alii; pea, commoner's sail)
lanalana	the tie of the ama to the iako in an outrigger canoe
lona	the blocks on which double canoes rest when out of the water
lupe	on an outrigger canoe, the part of the ama extending forward of the fore 'iako
maka-ihu	the sharp point at the stern end of a canoe
mapuna	to stroke backwards in paddling (mapuna hoe) If the stroke is not in good time, the paddlers not together, the paddling is pa'ewa'ewa.
nimilo	to plunge the paddle into the water
moamoa	the sharp point at the stern end of a canoe
momoa	the corresponding part on the stern
mo'o	the gunwale planks which are fastened to the top edges of the hulls. Pale - a top row of plans sometimes added above the mo'o. On Hokule'a, the wood strip above the mo'o.
mouo	buoy
muku	or muku o ka 'iako: the part of the 'iako, on Hokule'a, which extends outboard of the hulls. On an outrigger canoe it is the part which extends beyond the hull on the opposite side of the ama.
nohoana	seats

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Hawaiian Terms Used in Polynesian Voyaging (continued)

ō	Spar, or spirit. In Hokule'a, the spar which is fastened to the luff (leading edge) of the sail, and which is drawn up to the mast by the halliard.
Oupe	extreme lower end of the paddle
paepae	the boom; the spar to which the foot of the sail is fastened, and to which are fastened the sheets (lines for controlling the sail)
paka	to fend off or turn aside, as a steersman does to avoid a wave
pa'u	storm covers which fit over the openings of the hulls
pepeiao	projections on the inside of a canoe to hold the seats
piho	swamped (but not sinking)
poholua	to set the sails so the vessel will lie to
pola	the center deck of a wa'a kaulua
polena	the forestay; line which fastens the mast to the bows. Also furled, as a sail is furled. Made tight, as a knot is made tight.
pueo	shrouds; the lines which stay the masts to each side of the vessel; also kaula pu
pukolu	a triple canoe (three hulls)
une	to use the paddles as a lever to change the heading of a vessel
'u'u	to pull in a line. . . to hoist a sail
wa'a kaukahi	outrigger canoe
wa'a kaulua	double canoe

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See final of book in
Group