

# CARTOGRAPHER'S NOTES

ISLAND OF O'AHU by Artist / Cartographer Blaise Domino

**I**SLAND OF O'AHU is the third in a series of historical maps of Hawaii focusing on the time of Capt. James Cook's rediscovery. Though I have done extensive research and consulted with historical and Hawaiiana authorities, as with MAP OF THE SANDWICH ISLES and ISLAND OF MAUI, I have attempted to create art first and historical/cultural map second. With love and respect, it is my intention to enrich and deepen your appreciation for this special island. Every island is unique in terrain and climate, influencing the cultural and spiritual growth of its people. Each is beautiful in its own way. O'ahu, (popularly known as "the gathering place") was also known as the "bread-basket" of the islands because of the abundant agriculture. With ample water over much of the island, it is no surprise that emphasis was placed on food cultivation and less on war. On this island, Lono, the god of harvest conceivably took pre-eminence over Kū, the war god. The following, will I hope, amplify and explain in greater detail the images on ISLAND OF O'AHU.

**HOW O'AHU POSSIBLY GOT ITS NAME:** There is much difficulty in translating this name but according to some Hawaiian scholars, *ahu* means heaped or piled and when viewed from the sea, the clouds make 'Oahu look all "heaped up." (Note different punctuation). Also, it could refer to the piling up of the first fruits offering to Lono during MAKAHIKI. Presently, it is spelled O'ahu.

**CAPT. JAMES COOK:** Aboard HMS *Resolution*, and accompanied by Capt. Charles Clerke on HMS *Discovery*, his first sighting of the Hawaiian Islands was of O'ahu and took place at dawn January 18, 1778. He went on to Kaua'i where he went ashore for needed provisions. In the beginning, he was mistakenly thought to be LONO god of the Makahiki, possibly in part, because his ship resembled a floating *heiau* (temple) with Lono banners. (See LONO I KAMAKAHIKI festival).

**KING KĀKUIHEWA:** Though he lived nearly 200 years before Capt. Cook's rediscovery, he unified the entire island and was greatly revered.

**DEITIES OF O'AHU:** KA'AHUPAHAU (Shark Goddess) leeward guardian patrols and protects the waters from Ka'ena Pt. to Pearl Harbor. PUEO (Owl God) ancestral guardian ('aumakua) of O'ahu chiefs. KAMAPUA'A (Boar God of agriculture) guardian of windward Ko'olau mountains and creator of KALIUWA'A Sacred Falls.

**ECOLOGY:** Protected endangered species: HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL 'ĪLIO HOLO IKA UAUA (running dog in the rough sea). Though there are few now, it is suspected that there was a significant population in the past. HAWAIIAN TREE SNAIL PŪPŪ KANIOE or KĀHULI (singing tree shells that wind around) an important indicator of environmental health. SANDALWOOD 'ILIAHI once abundant, was traded for western weapons and goods. HANAUMA BAY is a now a protected nature preserve hosting a wide variety of ocean life.

**HEIAU** (temple): KUALOA PU'UHONUA (place of refuge) Because this is the most sacred site of all the islands, passing boats dipped their sails out of respect. LONO I KAMAKAHIKI (*Makahiki* Festival) first fruits offering and annual tax for Lono, god of agriculture. KŪKANILOKO (Birthing heiau where the female ali'i (royalty) went to give birth). HALE O LONO (House of Lono at Waimea) God's temple. HEALING STONES OF WAHIAWĀ is where people went to be healed. PELE'S SALT LAKES The volcano goddess Pele was seeking a home here but left when she dug in the earth and hit water.

**CRATERS:** DIAMOND HEAD LĒ'AHĪ (Cape of Fire) highest peak of Diamond Head. PUNCHBOWL PŪOWAINA Hill of placing (human sacrifices). KOKO "blood" KOHELEPELEPE Home of Pele as a young woman. KA'AU (Māui cast his fishhook from Ka'ena Pt. to Kaua'i but rebounded here.)

**MT. KA'ALA:** (Fragrance) and refers to the sun's motion over the mountain. Also, the highest mountain on O'ahu (4020 ft.).

**MT. OLOMANA:** Named after a famous giant who leaped from Kaua'i to this peak.

**KOLEKOLE PASS:** A favorite haunt for robbers.

**HONOLULU FORT:** KEPĀPŪ (the gun wall) and sometimes called Russian Fort because in 1816 construction was originally begun by Russia. Early on, Kamehameha I took over the fort and the Russians returned to Kaua'i where they were better received.

**PŌHAKU O KAUA'I:** Legendary rock of Kaua'i. LEINA A KA 'UHANE (Leaping place of the spirit).

**PU'U O KAPOLEI:** Place where the priest *kahuna* marked the end of the year by following the journey and stopping of the sun. Home of Pele's older sister, Kapo.

**BATTLE OF NU'UANU:** In 1795, KAMEHAMEHA the Great using western weapons, won a decisive victory over KALANIKŪPULE the son of his arch rival KAHEKILI and secured his control of O'ahu. During the battle, KALANIKŪPULE, known for trickery, escaped while the handsome KA'IANA stayed to fight and was killed. KAI'ANA was the lover of KA'AHUMANU, KAMEHAMEHA'S favorite queen.

**COMPASS:** Found in the lower right corner, this was designed from the royal emblem and has two Chiefs in yellow cloaks, the color of O'ahu. Also, find PUEO owl guardian of O'ahu.

**MAP OF THE SANDWICH ISLES:** Found in the upper right hand corner, this inset identifies the ISLAND OF O'AHU as part of my Hawaiian Historical Map series.