

Basic Hawaiian Words and Definitions

Aloha and welcome to the Inns of the Corps Hawai'i. Here at the Inns of the Corps we'd like to welcome our guest who are PCS-in and help to properly pronounce some basic Hawaiian Words while here in Hawai'i, so that you would be ma'a (mah-ah) or to be familiar with some terminology.

'okina (backwards apostrophe): The 'okina is used as a glottal stop. For example, 'o'o is pronounced oh-oh.

Kahako (the dash above the vowels): The kahako is used to elongate the vowel. For example,

La is pronounced Laah.

Aloha (ah-low-ha): Love, also used as a greeting to say Hello or Goodbye.

A hui hou (ah-hu-ee-ho-uh): Goodbye

Mahalo (ma-ha-low): Thank You

'ae (ah-ee or [eye]): Yes

'a'ole (ah-oh-lay): No

'a'ole pilikia (ah-oh-lay pee-lee-key-ah): No Problem or You're Welcome

Mauka (mau-kah): Towards the mountain

Makai (mah-kai): Toward the ocean

Wai (va-ee): Drinking water

Kai (ka-ee) or kahakai (ka-ha-ka-ee): Ocean

i'a (ee-ah): Fish

Honu (ho-new): Turtle

Nai'a (nai-ah): Dolphin

Mano (mah-noo): Shark

Hoku (hoo-koo): Star

La (laah): Sun or day

Mahina (ma-he-nah): Moon

Po (poh): Night or dark

'opua (oh-pu-ah): Clouds