

Papahulilani - The research of Space and the Sky Above us in Hawaiian Culture

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The Kumulipo (creation story) describes the existence of life on these islands. In section 13 of this text, 1793 the science of Papahulilani is exclaimed as an organization of all the natural phenomenon in the realm of the atmosphere and space. This presentation will unpackage the fundamentals of Papahulilani, i.e. the terminology, the texts in the form of chants and the basis of ancestral methods of reading the stars, clouds, winds, rain, and time.

Dr. Kalei Nu'uhiwa is the first Indigenous Knowledge System Fellows at Conservation International. A native Hawaiian from the island of Maui, is a progressive pioneer with 30 years of experience in conducting research in various Hawaiian practices of time keeping, lunar calendars, heiau ritual, ceremonies and epistemologies connected to phenology, strategic resource management and social wellbeing. Her expertise is Papahulilani, the study of celestial cycles and atmospheric phenomena. A critical thinker recognized kilo practitioner, academic, philanthropist and advocate of access to traditional knowledge, she uses traditional methods to create and enrich healthy environments and situations where people can thrive. Kalei holds a master's from the Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge, University of Hawai'i and a PhD in Māori and Indigenous Studies, University of Waikato, NZ.

