



# Pele & Poli'ahu A Tale of Fire & Ice

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# Tūtū Pele

- Believed to have been born in Tahiti
- One of (6) daughters and (7) sons of Haumea, the Earth Goddess and Kane Milohai, creator of sky earth and upper heavens
- Father sent her away due to difficult temper, and after seducing her sister Namakaokahai's husband
- Other story is she was given a canoe by her brother Kamohoalii (King of the sharks), landed in Kauai, attacked by Namakaokahai, left for dead, however recovered and moved to Oahu in the Diamond Head crater
- Searched for a place to live throughout the Hawaiian island chain
- Kept hitting water as she dug deep in the land
- Until she landed on Hale Mau mau Crater in Kilauea





## Mo'olelo of Pele

- Pele is often portrayed as a wanderer.
- Most reported sighted Goddess, especially near volcanic craters and her home of Kilauea, one of the most active volcanoes in the world.
- She appears as either a very tall, beautiful young woman or an unattractive and frail elderly woman, usually accompanied by a white dog.
- Mo'olelo has it that Pele takes the form of an elderly beggar woman to test people – asking them if they have food or drink to share.
- Those who are generous and share with her are rewarded, while anyone greedy or unkind is punished with their homes or other valuables destroyed.
- <https://www.robertshawaii.com/blog/legend-behind-hawaiis-goddess-fire/>

## The Legend of Pele



<https://youtu.be/H4RGMBNzLFw>

# Ku'u Poliahu

Kalani Pea



# Ku‘u Poli‘ahu Lyrics

## Olelo Hawaii

- Mauna Kea kilakila keu ā ka u‘i
- Luhiehu ka Makua o ku‘u lani
- Poli‘ahu ka wahine kapa hau anu
- Pumehana ka wahine e ‘apo mai ē, ‘apo mai ē
- Hi‘i mai ke kuahiwi i ka moena hau
- Pō‘ai nā hale a puni ka Makua
- Ua kani ā ‘u‘ina a māuna ‘ia
- E ano‘i pono nō e pūlama mau ē, pūlama mau ē
- Eō mai Poli‘ahu e noho nani mai
- Poli‘ahu ka Makua o ku‘u lani
- Mauna Kea kilakila keu ā ka u‘i
- Luhiehu ka Makua o ku‘u lani

## English

- *Majestic Mauna Kea, oh you’re exquisite*
- *The most appealing guardian, my heavenly one*
- *Covered in the blanket of snow, you are Poli‘ahu*
- *This warmth of love, she embraces us*
- *The slopes are embraced by the snow*
- *Structures are built around the guardian*
- *Lightning and thunder occurs*
- *To long for the love, we must cherish her forever*
- *We call out to you Poli‘ahu who sits amidst with beauty*
- *The appealing guardian, the most heavenly one*
- *Majestic Mauna Kea, oh you’re exquisite*
- *The most appealing guardian, my heavenly one*

Updated: Oct 25, 2022

KU‘U POLI‘AHU  
NA KALANI PE‘A



# Who is Poli'ahu

- Older sister of Pele
- Known for beauty and compassion
- Water/ice Goddess
- Godfather Kane placed her on Mauna Kea (white mountain) with Lihau, the chilling rain who was constant-never left her
- Kane created her Wai-au, a silvery pool to bathe and play in
- Highly guarded and secured because of her beauty
- Holua races - Icy sled races
- “Ku-kahau-ula, the pink snow god, and Poliahu of the snow white bosom, may be seen embracing on Mauna-kea” (Ahuena Taylor July 1931:14-15).
- Holua races - Icy sled races



## Poli'ahu and Aiwohikupua

- The kane she fell in love with.
- He did not have luck with love; he rejected his first love, Puna Chiefess Laie I kawai; Hinaikamalama surfing in Lapahoehoe on Kauai. She fell in love with him, and he lost a bet with her, and the price was to marry her.
- She was heartbroken and said to have used her abilities to freeze them with snow or increase the sun with her sister Hi'iaka; mo'olelo also has it that Poli'ahu froze Aiwhoi to death.

• <https://www.wattpad.com/624840646-persephone-%E2%94%80-information-guide-poli%27ahu-and>

• <https://www.mkea.info/mauna-kea-moolelo/2021/10/25/the-love-of-poliahu-and-kkahauula-1>

• <https://hawaiiansweetscompany.com/pages/hawaiian-legends>



# Poli'ahu



# Poli'ahu Lyrics English translation

## **Teresa Bright - Poliahu**

Wai maka o Poliahu  
I ka 'eha a ke aloha  
Kaumaha i ka ha'alele  
O Aiwohi kupua

Anuanu ka 'iu kēhau  
O Mauna Kea  
A'ohe ana ipo aloha  
E ho'o pumehana

Kau mai ka hali'a aloha  
O ka wa mamua  
Puolu ka wai o Nohi  
Ku'u mehameha

He lei ko aloha  
No ku'u kino  
Pili poli hemo'ole  
No na kau akau

Hui:  
E ho'i mai (e ho'i mai)  
E ku'u ipo  
E ho'i mai (e ho'i mai)  
E pili kāua  
E ho'i mai (e ho'i mai 'oe)  
E ho'i mai 'oe e, e  
E ho'i mai 'oe

## **Teresa Bright - Poli'ahu** *(English translation)*

Tears of Poliahu  
in pain from love  
saddened by the departure  
of Aiwohi, the demi god

cold is the sacred dew  
of Mauna Kea  
having no one to love  
and to make warm

fond recollections of love  
of earlier times  
refresh the water of Nohi  
and my sadness

Your love is a lei  
for my body  
close to my breast  
for ever

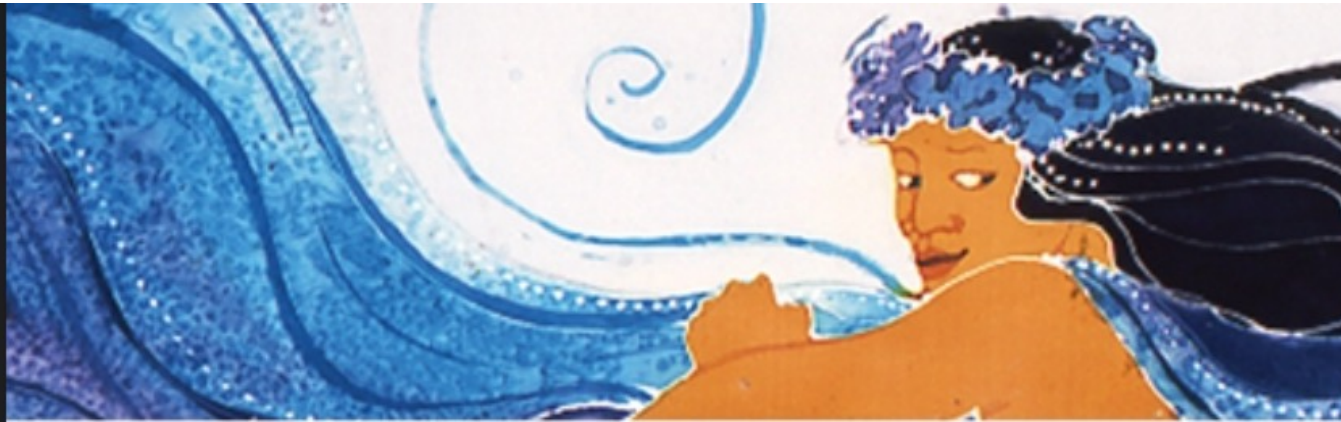
REFRAIN:  
come back (come back)  
my darling  
come back (come back)  
my darling  
and we'll be with each other  
come back (you come back)  
come back (you)  
come back (you)

<http://motolyrics.com/teresa-bright/poliahu-lyrics-english-translation.html>



## The mo'olelo of Pele & Poli'ahu

<https://youtu.be/XphauYeDc8A>



# Pele and Poli'ahu



## Pele and Poli'ahu

- Both Akua Wāhine
- Gifts and strengths that have been banished or turned negative upon contact and colonization
- Pele known as creator of land vs. destroyer - she clears land for what should be and needs to be
- Poli'ahu keeps the land in her area lush and nourished with wai to ensure there is food and vegetation for survival
- Resilience, beauty, and compassion come in various forms
- We must know this, and understand where we came from, to know where we are going



**POUHANA  
O NĀ  
WĀHINE**

*Pillars of Women*

Mahalo

<https://www.pouhanaonw.org/>

# References

- Pele <https://fineartamerica.com/featured/sacred-fire-of-pele-goddess-of-hawaii-volcano-olga-shevchenko.html>
- Poli'ahu <https://www.lindarowellstevens.com/poliahu>
- The Legend Behind Hawaii's Goddess of Fire <https://www.robertshawaii.com/blog/legend-behind-hawaiis-goddess-fire/>
- The Legend of Pele <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4RGMBNzLFw>
- Hawaiian Mythology: Poli'ahu <https://youtu.be/OMVr1kqrV6k>
- Ku'u Poli'ahu <https://www.kalanipeamusical.com/post/ku-u-poli-ahu-lyrics>
- Hawaii's Goddess of Snow Poli'ahu <https://historydaily.org/hawaiis-goddess-of-snow-poliahu/8>
- The Love of Poli'ahu and Kūkahau'ula <https://www.mkea.info/mauna-kea-moolelo/2021/10/25/the-love-of-poliahu-and-kkahauula-1>
- Pele and Poli'ahu: A Battle Between Fire and Snow <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XphauYeDc8A>