



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Mary Kawena Pukui papers, circa 1830 - circa 1930

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Mary Kawena Pukui papers
Date:	circa 1830 - circa 1930
Identifier:	NAA.2004-25
Creator:	Pukui, Mary Kawena, 1895-1986
Extent:	2 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Mary Kawena Pukui papers consist of copies made of Pukui's study and knowledge of Hawaiian culture. As a Hawaiian scholar, dancer, composer, and educator, Pukui held a tremendous knowledge of Hawaiian culture which is highlighted through her many published works from the mid to late 20 th century. This collection contains copied material gathered by Pukui's son-in-law, George Bacon, and includes texts either written or translated by Pukui on Hawaiian history, culture, stories, legends, and songs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The original notes are in the possession of George Bacon, who sent his transcription to Adrienne Kaeppler for delivery to the National Anthropological Archives in March 2005.

Other Finding Aids

A detailed description of the contents of folders in boxes 1-5, created by Hailama Farden of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, is available upon request. The work was carried out in 2005 with funding from the Kamehameha Schools.

Preferred Citation

Mary Kawena Pukui papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The Mary Kawena Pukui papers is open for research.

Access to the Mary Kawena Pukui papers requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Mary Abigail Kawena-'ula-o-ka-lani-a-Hi'iaka-i-ka-poli-o-Pele-ka-wahine-'ai-honua Na-lei-lehua-a-Pele Wiggin Pukui (1895-1986) was a Hawaiian scholar, dancer, composer, and educator. Daughter of a native Hawaiian woman and an American father, Pukui was initially raised by her grandmother, a hula dancer in the court of Queen Emma, who also held a great knowledge of medicine and midwifery. After her grandmother's death, Pukui continued her education in Hawaiian culture with her parents, speaking mainly in Hawaiian. She began collecting Hawaiian legends and proverbs from an early age, studied several well-known native dancers, and in 1938 she began working at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu as an ethnological assistant and translator until 1961. Pukui also taught Hawaiian language to several scholars and served as an informant for several anthropologists. A collector of Hawaiian words and their meanings, Pukui published a Hawaiian-English Dictionary in 1957 and 'Ōlelo No'eau in 1983. These are among over fifty scholarly works that she wrote. Mary Pukui's vast knowledge reflected in her published works serve as a preeminent source for the study of traditional Hawaiian culture.

Scope and Contents

The Mary Kawena Pukui papers reflect Pukui's vast knowledge of Hawaiian culture and her multifaceted role in Hawaiian life as a scholar, dancer, and creator. Born in 1895 and raised with traditional Hawaiian culture at heart, Pukui worked to collect and learn Hawaiian knowledge from an early age up until her death in 1986. Pukui's efforts to document Hawaiian culture is evidenced in this collection which consists of some correspondence and copies of Pukui's written work on historical figures, personally composed songs, and translations of traditional Hawaiian stories, legends, and songs. Additionally there are some Hawaiian legends written by other scholars collected by Pukui.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Arrangement

The material in this collection is mainly in its original arrangement by George Bacon. Some folders have been moved by the archivist to align with content in each box. Original folder numbers corresponding to original arrangement are still present on the folders.

Selected Bibliography

1960. Pukui, Mary K. *Tales of the Menehune*. Honolulu, Hawaii: Kamehameha Schools Press, 1960.
1966. Pukui, Mary K., with Samuel H. Elbert and Esther T. Mookini. *Place Names of Hawaii*. Honolulu, Hawaii: University of Hawaii Press, 1966.
1983. Pukui, Mary K. *'Ōlelo No'eau: Hawaiian Proverbs and Poetical Sayings*. Honolulu, Hawaii: Bishop Museum Press, 1983.
1986. Pukui, Mary K., with Samuel H. Elbert. *Hawaiian Dictionary: Hawaiian-English-English-Hawaiian, Revised and Enlarged Edition*. Honolulu, Hawaii: University of Hawaii Press, 1986.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Hawaiians

Cultures:

Hawaiians

Places:

Hawaii

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	A History of the Times of Kamehameha I, 1868-1870
Box 1, Folder 2	Kamehameha I, 1838-1935 (bulk 1894-1922)
Box 1, Folder 3	Kamehameha V
Box 1, Folder 4	King Kalakaua [1 of 2], 1871-1883
Box 1, Folder 5	King Kalakaua [2 of 2], 1871-1903
Box 1, Folder 6	Queen Emma, 1861-1885
Box 1, Folder 7	King Lunalilo, 1873-1874
Box 2, Folder 1	Kuokoa, 1863-1923 (bulk 1863-1882)
Box 2, Folder 2	Maui, 1864-1922
Box 2, Folder 3	Moloka'a, 1865-1925
Box 2, Folder 4	Oahu [1 of 2], 1868-1922
Box 2, Folder 5	Oahu [2 of 2], 1865-1939
Box 2, Folder 6	Kauai, 1871-1913
Box 2, Folder 7	Miscellaneous legends [1 of 4], 1860-1912
Box 2, Folder 8	Miscellaneous legends [2 of 4], 1845-1902
Box 3, Folder 1	Miscellaneous legends [3 of 4], 1860-1920
Box 3, Folder 2	Miscellaneous legends [4 of 4], 1893
Box 3, Folder 3	Legend of Pele, 1899
Box 3, Folder 4	The Legend of Keanini'ulaokalani by William Kahoewa'a, 1882
Box 3, Folder 5	The Legend of Kaulani issued by Samuel Kapohu, 1869
Box 3, Folder 6	The Legend of Hamanalau by J. K. Kanepuu, 1867-1868
Box 3, Folder 7	The Legend of Pikoi by S. M. Kauli, 1865-1866

Box 3, Folder 8	The Legend of Kamaakamahi'ai, 1870-1871
Box 3, Folder 9	Lelieiohoku
Box 3, Folder 10	Stories and legends of Hawaii, 1863-1897
Box 3, Folder 11	Miscellaneous [1 of 4], 1921-1924
Box 4, Folder 1	Miscellaneous [2 of 4], 1864-1933
Box 4, Folder 2	Miscellaneous [3 of 4], 1893
Box 4, Folder 3	Miscellaneous [4 of 4], 1834
Box 4, Folder 4	Agriculture, 1836-1927
Box 4, Folder 5	Art, 1965
Box 4, Folder 6	Birds
Box 4, Folder 7	Customs, 1868
Box 4, Folder 8	Creation, 1896
Box 4, Folder 9	Dreams
Box 4, Folder 10	Fish and Fishing [1 of 2], 1902
Box 4, Folder 11	Fish and Fishing [2 of 2], 1858-1928
Box 5, Folder 1	Hula [1 of 3], 1861-1936
Box 5, Folder 2	Hula [2 of 3]
Box 5, Folder 3	Hula [3 of 3]
Box 5, Folder 4	Medicine [1 of 2], 1837-1934
Box 5, Folder 5	Medicine [2 of 2], 1867-1934
Box 5, Folder 6	People, 1868-1869
Box 5, Folder 7	Songs, 1916
Box 5, Folder 8	Tapa
Box 5, Folder 9	Who an[d] What, 1896