

Hawaiian Star Lore: Genealogies & Histories of Na Hulu Navigating Families

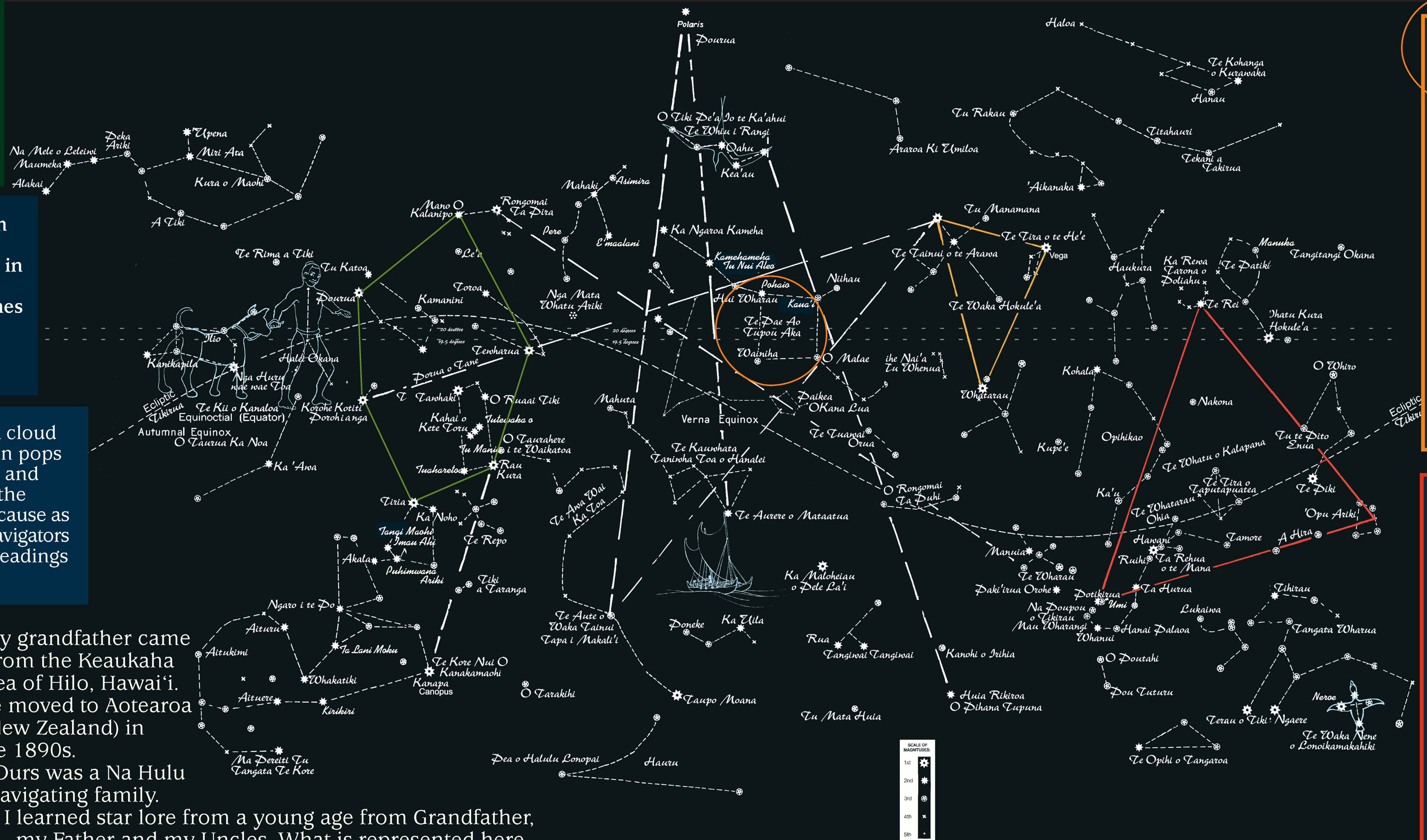
~ University of Chiefs, Royal Order of Kamehameha Ekahi, Heiau o Mamalahoa

Lono Makua, Great Grandfather of the Heavenly Bodies, and Hina Piliwai, Great Grandmother of the Heavenly Ethers, oversee the great expanse of the universe.

The connection between Heaven and Earth: our genealogies are reflected in our cosmology.

Look at these star names - they are family names found in Hawai'i and Polynesia.

Na Hulu means a cape, a cloud covering, or when the sun pops up. That's why Hawaiian and Polynesians were called the Vikings of the Sunrise, because as they travelled by canoe, navigators were always taking star readings just before the sunrise.



Te Pai Ao o Kamehameha Pohai - The Measure of Kamehameha's Circle - the Riddle of the Earth's Circumference

On September 21st. the Fall Equinox, this configuration is seen above the Malaie Heiau on Kaua'i. The juxtaposition of the stars within the circle, those that form the Malaie Constellation, and the timing of its appearance were used to calculate the Earth's circumference.

Te Moana Nui o Kiwa - The Great Ocean of the Frigate Bird

On June 21st, Summer Solstice, this configuration spans the Pacific Ocean with Taronā Poriahu above Pu'u Poliahu on Mauna Kea, Hawai'i; Pu'u Umiroa aligned with Taronā Poriahu at 40 degrees south in Aotearoa; and 'Opu Ali'i above Rapa Nui. At this point, the images of the ancestors in Rapa Nui begin sinking into the West to begin the long winter journey.

My grandfather came from the Keaukaha area of Hilo, Hawai'i. He moved to Aotearoa (New Zealand) in the 1890s.

Ours was a Na Hulu navigating family.

I learned star lore from a young age from Grandfather, my Father and my Uncles. What is represented here is our family's knowledge and traditions.

- Ali'i Kahu TeRangi, Royal Order of Kamehameha I, Heiau o Mamalahoa

