

My Name (Inoa)

O - 'Ohana goal (Why do the activity?) Family goal

Knowing the meaning of your name (inoa) helps to build a person's identity and understanding of oneself.



Naming your child was a significant part of the Hawaiian culture. It helped the individual understand their relationship to their 'ohana and their home. Names were given for many reasons; a name might share the condition of birth, share family lineage, family occupation, or even boast a family's nobility or successes. Hawaiian belief is a name could shape your character or personality.

There are several types of ways a name could be chosen, some of the most common are inoa pō, inoa hō 'ailona, inoa 'ulāleo, inoa ho 'omana 'o, inoa kupuna.

1. Inoa pō
 - a. Is a name that comes to a family member in a dream. This type of name is exclusively for this particular person, no other family member should use the name without permission or something may happen to the person who takes the name without permission.
2. Inoa hō 'ailona
 - a. Is a name that comes to a family member in a sign
3. Inoa 'ulāleo
 - a. Is a voice name that comes to a family member in a dream, this name is more of a command from an ancestor. This type of name shows the relationship of the keiki to the 'aumakua, ancestor that choose the name for the child.
4. Inoa kupuna
 - a. Is a name that is handed down for generations along with the history of the name
5. Inoa ho 'omana 'o
 - a. Is a name that commemorates an event or an ali 'i



H-Ha'awina (Let's do the activity) *Lesson, Assignment, Task*

Help your keiki understand the meaning of their name by talking to them about the following questions:

1. Who named your child?
2. What is the meaning of your child's full name?
3. What is the story behind how your child was given their name?

Tips:

Make learning the meaning of your child's name memorable and fun by creating an art piece or poem with the meaning of their full name.

A-Alaka'i (What did you learn? What can you teach?) *To lead, Guide, Direct*

Extension activities:

- Tell your child about the meaning of your name
- Tell your child the meaning of other 'ohana members name

Resources:

Pūku 'i, Mary Kawena(1979). Nānā I Ke Kumu, Look to the source. Hawai 'i: Queen Lili'uokalani Children 's Center Publications.



