



## Suggested Reading for Children

### Infants & Toddlers

[Māui hooks the islands](#); Ahuli'i, Gabrielle

Māui Hooks the Islands tells the story of how young Māui helped create the islands of Hawai'i using his wits, strength, and a little bit of magic.

[Pele finds a home](#); Ahuli'i, Gabrielle

Pele travels across the islands and finds many beautiful places, but none of them are the perfect fit. So, Pele creates her own home where she is free to be herself.

[Animals sing aloha](#); Arita, Vera

This book is designed to introduce young children to phonics, or the symbol-sound relationships of the alphabet within a Hawai'i-based context.

[Hawaiian Ocean Lullaby](#); Greenway, Beth

Your youngest will enjoy counting the varied creatures that inhabit Hawai'i's waters and shores as you tuck them in for gentle dreams.

[I Kahakai = At the Kahakai](#); Lucas, Ka'ōhua

There are so many things to do at the beach! Join in the fun with two brothers and their 'ohana as they surf, clean limu, eat raw a'ama, and do other seashore activities.

[Ka pāna pā hale = Backyard jam](#); Lucas, Ka'ōhua

Play along with a young keiki kāne and his 'ohana while learning about musical instruments common to Hawaiian backyard music jams.

[Ma ko'u lū'au = At my lū'au](#); Lucas, Ka'ōhua

A celebration of a young Kaikamahine's first birthday in Hawaiian tradition.

[Baby's book of firsts](#); Meckel, Jamie

Celebrates the important milestones baby experiences with wonder and aloha.

[A keiki's first word book](#); Nogelmeier, Puakea

Learn words with photos of objects and activities for Hawaii's keiki. A surprise door on every page lets kids discover the hidden object.

[Twinkle, twinkle, small hōkū](#); Tsong, Jing Jing

This Hawaii version of the classic rhyme takes children on a poetic journey across the ocean with canoe paddlers.



## Preschool – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

[Mahalo e Grandpa](#); Armitage, Kimo

A heartwarming story of a grandpa who passes his wisdom onto his young grandson.

[My kalo has lau, big and green](#); Aquino, Pua

This book walks keiki's through how each part of a kalo plant is symbolized by the different generations within the Hawaiian 'ohana.

[Alphabet hukilau in Hawai'i](#); Arita, Vera

Learn the alphabet and a few facts about some of Hawai'i's colorful and amazing sea life.

[Little Malia's big poi idea](#); Calma, Joceylyn

Little Malia has a big idea. Poi for breakfast, poi for lunch, and poi for dinner too. She can't think of anything better she'd like to eat, so why not her very favorite treat?

[Grandma calls me beautiful](#); Joosse, Barbara M.

A Hawaiian grandmother tells her granddaughter a favorite story about how much she loves her.

[Hula lullaby](#); Kono, Erin

Against the backdrop of a beautiful Hawaiian landscape, a young girl cuddles and sleeps in her mother's lap.

[I am a creature of the tides](#); Lindsey, Kynaston Kaikā

Readers are taken on a guessing game tour of tidal pool residents, from the clingy 'opihi (a limpet) to the spiky ha'ue'ue (pencil urchin).

['Ohana Means Family](#); Loomis, Ilima

In this cumulative rhyme in the style of "The House That Jack Built," a family celebrates Hawai'i and its culture while serving poi at a luau

[Too many mangoes](#); Paikai, Tammy

Kama and Nani help their grandpa pick mangos from the giant mango tree. They've picked too many, so it's time to load up the wagon and share the tasty treats with friends and family.

[Uncle's Magic Thrownet](#); Yamashita, Todd

Uncle's magic thrownet was magic indeed. It could catch every fish that there was in the sea. But a young visitor soon finds that all is not what it seems with Uncle's old net.



## 2nd – 3rd Grade

[Naupaka](#); Beamer, Winona

The story of star-crossed lovers and explanation of Naupaka blossoms.

[Surfer of the Century: The Life of Duke Kahanamoku](#); Crowe, Ellie

A biography of Hawaiian Duke Kahanamoku, five-time Olympic swimming champion from the early 1900s who is also considered worldwide as the 'father of modern surfing.

[The Shark Man of Hāna = 'O ke Kāne Manō o Hāna](#); Goldsberry, U'i

A young boy comes across Nanaue, a mysterious old man in the village. In attempting to return his cloak, 'Eleu learns the secret of Nanaue's family line.

[Luka's Quilt](#); Guback, Georgia

When Luka's grandmother makes a traditional Hawaiian quilt for her, she and Luka disagree over the colors it should include.

[Manu the Boy who Loved Birds](#); Loebel-Fried, Caren

As he discovers the meaning of his Hawaiian name, a young boy learns about an ancient, now extinct, Hawaiian forest bird and the importance of bird conservation.

[Butterfly for a King: Saving Hawai'i's Kamehameha Butterflies](#); Roth, Susan L.

A combined history of the Hawaiian islands and the native Kamehameha butterfly up to and including current-day efforts to restore the butterfly's declining habitats and population.

[The Last Princess: The Story of Princess Ka'iulani of Hawai'i](#); Stanley, Fay

Recounts the story of Hawaii's last heir to the throne, who was denied her right to rule when the monarchy was abolished.

[Moku and the He'e](#); Toki, Wilfred

Moku is an old fisherman who lives by Waimea Bay. The winter with sea storms making it difficult to go out fishing. Just when they think they will starve, Moku makes one last attempt.

[How Maui Slowed the Sun](#); Tune, Suelyn Ching

Recounts how Maui uses his magical powers to slow the path of the sun across the sky, thus allowing crops more time to grow, fishermen more time to fish, and children more time to play.

[Eddie Wen' Go: The Story of the Upside-Down Canoe](#); Lyman-Mersereau, Marion

An imaginative look at what happened on that fateful journey through the eyes of marine creatures.



## 4th – 5th Grade

[A president from Hawai'i](#); by Carolan, Dr.

A biography that teaches children about the history, cultural values and language that are unique to the Aloha State, values that President Obama experienced growing up in Hawai'i.

[History smashers: Pearl Harbor](#); Messner, Kate

A highly-designed and illustrated (including graphic novel panels) overview of the truths and lies about the attack on Pearl Harbor

[One boy no water](#); Parker, Lehua

Adopted as a baby by a family in Hawaii, water-allergic Zader discovers that he is actually the descendant of an age-old predator from the sea and must come to grips with this reality.

[Calvin Coconut: trouble magnet](#); Salisbury, Graham

Nine-year-old Calvin catches the attention of the school bully on the day before he starts fourth grade, while at home, the unfriendly, fifteen-year-old daughter of his mother's best friend has taken over his room.

[Plants and animals of Hawaii](#); Scott, Susan

This book about plants and animal of Hawai'i was written to inspire more people to become active in the fight to save Hawai'i native species.

[Call it courage](#); Sperry, Armstrong

Based on a Polynesian legend, this is the story of a youth who overcomes his fear of the sea and proves his courage to himself and his tribe.

[Strong like the sea](#); Swore, Wendy S.

Even though twelve-year-old Alexis was born in Hawaii, she won't surf or swim with her friends-not since the ocean and its hidden creatures swept her out to sea. Instead, she grabs her best detective hat and decodes her mom's latest challenge.

[Pele: the fire goddess](#); Varez, Dietrich

The legend of Pele, goddess of Hawaii's Kilauea volcano, is beautifully and simply retold with vivid illustrations.

[Hawaii's strangest, ickiest, wildest book ever!](#); Wagner, Kathryn Drury

Science, natural history, animals, Hawaiian history, island trivia ... It's all here and all so disgusting, you won't even notice you're learning!