



Ke Ala Hele O Ka Honu

Honu Trail

Night was born of great delight, night was rolled for the pleasure of the gods, night gave birth to the split back turtle. Along the Honu (turtle) Trail, you will find 15 petroglyphs created by artist Kauila Clark that depict the Hawaiian Creation Story. Read their descriptions below and walk the trail to locate them.



PULOULOU:

The sacred image that precedes all royal processions. This image is used because all things were created spiritually before they were created physically. Before all of creation there was only the Creator. The image is usually covered with white kapa.



AO HOLO OKO A (THE UNIVERSE):

The creation of the whole made up of independent entities. This is signified in the petroglyph by concentric circles which are independent entities that are included in making up the whole. The kumliipo suggest an ever expanding universe that is perpetual.



NA HOKU (THE STARS):

"At the time when the heavens turned and changed, At the time of the night of the makalii (Pleiades)." So were created the heavens and the stars and planets in the universe. The stars are a gift for navigation and wonderment.



HOO KAHUA O NA HOKU (THE SOLAR SYSTEM):

"At the time when the light of the sun was subdued to cause light to break forth." So was created the solar system with the sun as the center and the planets revolving around the sun. Night and day were created.



HOO HONUA (CREATION OF THE EARTH):

"Then came the slime that established the earth. The source of deepest darkness, of the depth of the darkness, of the depth of darkness, of the darkness of the sun, in the depth of night, it is night, so night was born." This acknowledges the rotation of the earth and forming both day and night.



MANU (BIRD):

"The Ka Iwa was born and became parent. Birds covered the land of Kanehunamoku, These were born birds of the land and the sea. A night of flight by noises, through a channel, the IO is life to birds, so the gods may enter but not man," The birds were created to link humans to IO the Creator.



HONU (TURTLE):

"Night was born of great delight, night was rolled for the pleasure of the gods, night gave birth to the split back turtle." The turtle emerges as a sea and a land creature. The petroglyph indicates a stronger line on the front fins of the turtle to indicate the development and linkage of sea animals to the winged flying animals.



HOO AINA (CREATION OF THE LAND, SEPARATION OF THE WATER):

"From the sea a coral insect was born, from which was born perforated coral. From the land the earthworm was born, which gather earth into mounds"... "Through a channel water is life to the trees." "...That filled and kept filling, and filling, until filled, to filling till was full, and supported the earth, which held the heaven." "The sea spread, the land spread, the waters spread, the mountains spread." The water is separated in the sea, the land separated with fresh water and the clouds are formed. The petroglyph shows a horizon line with waves above and below the horizon line exemplifying the separation of the waters and the land.