

The names of the months were not the same at all the islands, but those of the days were.

On the island of Hawaii, to each month was assigned a particular business, as follows:

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| 1. Nana, | } | Months for war. |
| 2. Welo, | | |
| 3. Ikikiki, | | |
| 4. Kaona, taboo the opelu. | | |
| 5. Hinaialeele, catch the opelu. | | |
| 6. Hilinehu, | } | Taxing months. |
| 7. Hilinama, | | |
| 8. Ikuwa, prayers, games, and dissipations. | | |
| 9. Wailehu, annual feast, and pay taxes. | | |
| 10. Makalii, idols carried around the island; demanding taxes. | | |
| 11. Kaelo (January), offerings for the dead; catch boneta. | | |
| 12. Kaulau, fishing boneta. | | |

Farming was carried on at all seasons of the year.

It is not a little singular that two islands so closely in the vicinity of each other as Hawaii and Maui, both speaking the same language, should have had their monthly calendar varying nearly two months.

With regard to the days, they commenced numbering them on the first day the new moon is seen in the west.

This made it necessary for them to correct their reckoning every two or three months, and reduce their year to twelve lunations instead of three hundred and sixty-five days. The difference between the sidereal and lunar year they are said to have discovered, and to have corrected their reckoning by the stars, for which reason in practice their years varied, some containing twelve and others thirteen lunations.

They likewise applied corrections to their months, giving them twenty-nine and thirty days. Although this caused many breaks in their system, yet their chronologists could always tell the name of the day and month on which any great event had occurred; and it is easy to reduce their time to ours, except when the change of the moon takes place about the middle of our calendar months, when there is a liability to a mistake of a whole month. Another error is apt to occur in the uncertainty of the day when the moon is discovered in the west. It may readily be conceived that their own method did not tend to much accuracy, as they had to rely entirely upon their memories.

Eclipses were thought to be an attack on the sun and moon, by the gods, and presaged a war or some other disaster.*

* In Appendix III. will be found an account of their heathen gods, and the ceremonies attendant on the consecration of their heiaus.