



EDITORIAL | KAUAKUKALAHALE

# Pehea lā ka puana 'ana i ka wē?

By Laiana Wong • Oct. 28, 2017

*Synopsis: The “w” in Hawaiian today is sometimes pronounced like an English “w” and sometimes like an English “v”. What’s up with that?*

Aloha mai kākou. ‘O kēlā nīnau e kau maila ma luna, he nīnau wāhi pūniu ia, no ka mea, ‘a’ole i mōakāka ke ‘ano o ka puana ‘ia o ka “w” ma ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i a ua hele a ‘ano huikau ka po‘e ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i o kēia au. Lohe ‘ia he “w” i kekahi manawa, a he “v” i kekahi manawa. A ‘o ka nīnau nui ho‘i: Ua pili anei ia lolelua i kahi o ka ‘ōlelo e puka mai ai ia hua? ‘Eā, e ka mea heluhelu, ke hāpai ‘ia nei kēia kumuhana i mea e hō‘ike ai i ke ‘ano hōkai mai o ka no‘ono‘o haole i loko o ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i.

Ho‘omana‘o a‘ela au i ka nītele ‘ana aku i ka‘u kumu ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i ma ka papa makua o ka Pūnana Leo he 28 makahiki aku nei. Nīnau akula au iā ia no ke ‘ano pololei o ka puana ‘ana i ka hua‘ōlelo “Hawai‘i?” Pane maila ‘o ia ala ua lohe ‘ia he ‘ehā ‘ano puana ‘ana, ‘o ia ho‘i ‘o Hawai‘i, Hawa‘i, Havai‘i, a me Hava‘i. Aloha nō. ‘O ia mau huikau nō o kahi keiki ‘ike ‘ole i ka puana Hawai‘i.

Ma ia hope mai, ua ho‘i au i ka ‘imi na‘auao ma ke Kulanui a ‘o ia mau nō ka pohihihi o ia hua he “wē”. Ho‘omaopopo a‘ela au i ka ha‘i ‘ōlelo a kahi polopeka no ka ho‘opuka ‘ia o kēia mau puana hualeo ‘elua (w a me v) no ka hualeo ho‘okahi. ‘ōlelo maila kēlā, ua pili nō ka puana i ke ‘ano o ka woela e hahai mai ana. ‘O ia ho‘i, inā he “a”, he “e”, a i ‘ole he “i” ke hahai ana, e puana ‘ia ka hualeo [w] e like me ka “v” ma ka ‘ōlelo haole, a inā he “o” a he “u” paha ke hahai mai ana, ua puana ‘ia ma ke ‘ano he “w” ma ka ‘ōlelo haole. A ‘o ke kumu mai, he ‘ano pilina ma waena o ia mau woela (o me u) a me ka “w” ‘oiai ua mōkio maila nā lehelehe ma ka ho‘opuka ‘ana. He mana‘o maika‘i paha ia, eia na‘e ka mea ‘āpiki, ua puana ‘ia ka hua‘ōlelo “woela” me ka “v”. He kū‘ē lula paha?

He haumāna kālai'ōlelo au ma ke Kulanui i ia mau lā a komo akula i loko o ka papa kālaileo a ke kauka Albert J. Schutz. Wahi āna, he mau kani ia nāna e ho'opilipili i nā hualeo haole, a 'o ke kani Hawai'i o ke au kahiko, aia ma waena o ia mau kani 'elua (v a me w). 'Ōlelo maila 'o ia, he hana 'ia ka "v" o ka 'ōlelo haole ma o ka ho'opili 'ana i ka pae niho o luna me ka lehelehe o lalo, a 'o ka "w" ho'i, ua hana 'ia ma o ka ho'omokio 'ana i nā lehelehe 'elua, a 'a'ole e ho'opili 'ia.

Wahi āna, ua 'oko'a ka ho'opuka 'ana o ka po'e kahiko i ia kani. Ho'opuka 'ia ke ea ma o nā lehelehe 'elua i 'ano pili koke i kahi manawa a ka'awale ho'i i kekahi manawa. Inā ua pili, e 'ānai 'ia nā lehelehe 'elua e ke ea a 'o ia ka puka 'ana mai ia o ke kani kapalili o nā lehelehe, he "v" ke lohe aku. Inā e ka'awale nā lehelehe, puka wale mai ke ea me ka 'ānai 'ole aku i nā lehelehe a 'a'ole kani kapalili e lohe 'ia, he kahu "w" ke lohe aku.

Ua kū mai ka 'ōlelo haole i ka moku, a i mea e ho'opilipili ai ka po'e haole i ke 'ano "v" o ia hua, ua pā ka lehelehe i ka niho e like me ka hana ma ka 'ōlelo haole. He ala ia i komo malū ai ka 'ōlelo haole i loko o ka puana Hawai'i. Ho'okahi wale nō ia la'ana no ka loli 'ana o kā kākou 'ōlelo. Auvē!

**E ho'ouna 'ia mai na ā leka iā māua, 'o ia ho'i 'o Laiana Wong a me Kekeha Solis ma ka pahu leka uila ma lalo nei:**

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**a i 'ole ia, ma ke kelepona:**

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**This column is coordinated by Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.**



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