

Kapa Making Vocabulary

Learn more about kapa making tools and 'Ōlelo Hawai'i – the Native Hawaiian language – as you watch Verna Apio Takashima's videos about kapa making.

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Interview #1: Verna Apio Takashima on Kapa Making

1. **i'e kuku** = carved beater made from native Hawaiian wood (often kauila, 'ōhi'a lehua, uhiuhi, or koai'a) *(used in video)*.
Carved beaters give kapa its distinct watermark (pattern in the cloth itself), and the pattern is unique to each kapa maker.
2. **kapa** = barkcloth made from wauke (paper mulberry tree)
3. **kūpuna** = ancestor(s)
4. **'ohe kāpala** = carved bamboo stamp(s) *(not shown in video)*.
These stamps are used with natural ink to create a design on the dry kapa. Stamp patterns often reflect something in nature and connect to the family, community, and individual identity of the kapa maker.
5. **tūtūs** = grandparents, older relatives, or other elders

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Interview #2: Verna Apio Takashima on the Significance of Hawaiian Kapa

1. **kapa** = barkcloth made from wauke (paper mulberry tree)
2. **kumu** = teacher
3. **wauke** = paper mulberry tree

Interview #3: Verna Apio Takashima on What Students Should Know About Kapa and Hawai'i

1. **Aloha** = Verna Apio Takashima says, “Aloha is not just a word. It doesn't just mean ‘love,’ ‘hello,’ ‘goodbye.’ Aloha comes from the heart, from the spirit. It's what we give. When we ‘aloha’ you, we embrace you, we hold you.”

Kumu Hula Carole Lanialoha Lee explains that aloha includes:

Akahai = kindness, to be expressed with tenderness – openness; come in, come in!

Lokahi = unity, to be expressed with harmony – agreement even in disagreement

Olu'olu = agreeableness, to be expressed with pleasantness – true openness (especially to learn)

Ha'aha'a = humility, to be expressed with modesty – even from “experts”

Ahonui = patience, to be expressed with perseverance – following through until the end

2. **kapa** = barkcloth made from wauke (paper mulberry tree)
3. **kumu** = teacher

Kapa Making Part 1: Beating the Kapa

1. **hohoa** = smooth beater made from native Hawaiian wood (often kauila, ōhi'a lehua, or koa). The hohoa frequently is the first beater used in the kapa-making process. (*not shown in video*).
2. **ī'e kuku** = carved beater made from native Hawaiian wood (often kauila, ōhi'a lehua, uhiuhi, or koai'a). Carved beaters give kapa its distinct watermark (pattern in the cloth itself), and the pattern is unique to each kapa maker.
3. **kua (kua kuku)** = anvil made from Hawaiian hardwood (often ōhi'a or koa wood)

4. **wauke** = paper mulberry tree

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Kapa Making Part 2: Watermarking the Kapa

1. **hohoa** = smooth beater made from native Hawaiian wood (often kauila, ōhi'a lehua, or koa). The hohoa frequently is the first beater used in the kapa-making process. (*not shown in video*).
2. **hoike** = demonstration of knowledge
3. **i'e kuku** = carved beater made from native Hawaiian wood (often kauila, ōhi'a lehua, uhiuhi, or koai'a). Carved beaters give kapa its distinct watermark (pattern in the cloth itself), and the pattern is unique to each kapa maker.
4. **kapa** = barkcloth made from wauke (paper mulberry tree)
5. **kumu** = teacher