Ka Makau Nui o Māui (The Big Fishhook of Maui) also known as Manaiakalani or Scorpius, rises in the southern skies. This hook-shaped constellation is embedded within the dark space in the Milky Way, or Ka I´a. As Maui’s fishhook travels across the sky from east to west it also pulls Pimoe or Sagittarius, the great ulua fish across the sky. The most prominent red star, Lehuakona or Antares can be seen within the constellation of Ka Makau Nui O Māui with the barb of the fishhook stars called Kamaka. Next time you visit Hawaiian Hall, visit Maui’s fishhook in the display case on the first floor.

Hawaiian Lunar Month:
“There were 360 days in a year. Ka po’e kahiko counted 30 days in each month of the 12 months of the year. There were 17 nights that were counted in groups and 12 counted separately, according to the phases of the moon.”

Samuel Mānaiakalani Kamakau Kamakai, 1870

Ka Makau Nui o Māui

Hilo (new)
7/2 & 7/31
Beginning of a new month; good for fishing, poor for planting

‘Ole Kū Kolu (first)
7/9
Poor time for fishing or farming

Māhealani (full)
7/16
Good time for fishing and farming

‘Ole Pau (last)
7/24
Poor time for fishing or farming

This sky map is set for the latitude of O’ahu (21˚ N), but can be used for other Hawaiian Islands, from Hawai‘i (19˚ N) to Kaua‘i (22˚ N).