Makaliʻi is the Hawaiian name for the star cluster commonly called Pleiades within the northern celestial constellation star of Taurus. While the name Makaliʻi can be translated in a number of ways, it is believed that in Hawaiian tradition, it is the name first belonging to a chiefly navigator who helped the high chief Hawaiʻiloa sail to and discover Hawaiʻi. In other Pacific cultures, the name Makaliʻi is a reference to the eyes of a chief, sometimes rendered as Matariki or Mata Ariki. In the traditional understanding of seasons in Hawaiʻi, as Makaliʻi rises, the hot, dry season called Kauwela gives way to the colder, wetter months of Hoʻoilo, also signaling the coming of the celebratory period called Makahiki.

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

This sky map is set for the latitude of Oʻahu (21° N), but can be used for other Hawaiian Islands, from Hawaiʻi (19° N) to Kauaʻi (22° N).