

✓

H
375.2
Ar

Ghost Dog

and

Other Hawaiian Legends

GEORGE T. ARMITAGE

AND

HENRY P. JUDD

ILLUSTRATED BY

JULIETTE MAY FRASER

EDITED BY

HELEN LAMAR BERKEY

**PRINTED IN HONOLULU, HAWAII, U. S. A.
BY ADVERTISER PUBLISHING CO., LTD.**

1944

HAWAII STATE LIBRARY SYSTEM

Copyright 1944 by
GEORGE T. ARMITAGE
AND
HENRY P. JUDD

Published and Distributed by
HAWAIIAN SERVICE (LOUISE AND GEORGE T. ARMITAGE)
P. O. BOX 2835, HONOLULU 3, HAWAII, U. S. A.

How the Alae Bird Was Born

The *alae* bird, or mud-hen of Hawaii had its legendary beginning on the Island of Molokai and, strangely enough, like many other good and useful things of the early Hawaiians, the fowl came from the coconut. This is the story.

Kaiakea, a commoner, but a successful and highly honored farmer and fisherman, made his home at Kalae in the uplands of central Molokai. But down by the sea at Kohanui he also owned a large *halau* (storehouse) in which he kept a reserve supply of food.

One day Kaiakea saw a vast throng of *malihini* (strangers) approaching. As they came closer Kaiakea noticed that there were a number of beautiful women in the party, attractively garbed in yellow *pa-u* (skirts) and *kihei* (cloaks) of similar hue. To complete their costumes the women wore many strands of *ilima* leis around their necks, with shorter strands of the fragrant green *maile* vine wound gracefully about their heads. The women were headed by one of their own sex called Kaului Maunaloa.

The men in the party, who were both tall and handsome, carried curious heavy bundles which their leader, Pua, directed them to put down by the fountain, Piliwale. One of the bundles broke open and proved to be filled with nothing more than twisted coconut shells. Kaiakea wondered at this, but called out cordially to them, "*Hele mai e ai,*" (come and eat).

The women declined, however, saying that they couldn't accept his invitation unless he built a special house for them. Thereupon Kaiakea and his men obligingly constructed a neat grass house of *ti* leaves. The strangers immediately carried their bundles into the new house, and conducted some sort of secret ceremonies. After they had been in the new house a long time the mystified Kaiakea went to invite them again to eat, but to his amazement the visitors had completely disappeared. Instead, the new house was filled with flapping *alae* birds which had been born from the twisted coconut shells. Kaiakea cared for the birds and they multiplied and flew all over Hawaii.