

# WAIPANUI AND THE SINKING SHIP

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In the early 1800s, Kamehameha the Great was traveling from the Island of Oahu to the Kona side of Hawai'i island. The most precious item among the company of Kamehameha was his son, Liholiho. The weather was clear and the wind filled the sails.

Suddenly, a crew member cried out, "We're taking on water! Water is filling up the ship!" The crew instinctively looked up toward the horizon, searching for land. The nearest island was too far away. If nothing was done, and quickly, the boat would sink. Lives would be lost.

Waipanui, a relative of Kamehameha, pushed his way to the site of the leak. He thought about Liholiho. He thought about the crew members and their families. He knew he had to do something to help. He began searching the deck of the boat when his eyes landed on a bucket of pig lard. He had a plan. Quickly, he grabbed a medium piece of canvas and rubbed the lard all over it. He shouted for someone to bring him a hammer and nails as he dove over the side of the boat. He managed to stop the leak with his temporary plug and the ship reached the Kona harbor safely.