

MAUI CAPTURING THE SUN

Maui loved his mother, Hina, very much. He especially took joy in watching her pound the tree bark that would be used to make kapa, the clothing that he and all of his community wore. One day Maui's mother commented, "There just isn't enough time in the day when the sun is shining. If the day were longer, then I would be able to make even more kapa for the people." Maui wanted very much to help solve his mother's dilemma and thought to himself, "How can I make the day longer? What if I stopped the sun from moving or slowed it down a little?"

The next day, Maui told his brothers of his idea and asked for their help. They laughed and said, "No man could approach it on account of its warmth, and the fierceness of its heat." Annoyed but confident in his abilities, he began to think. He looked around him and saw the mountain Haleakalā in the distance. He stared up toward the peak of the mountain and ran his fingers through his hair. Suddenly, he had a plan.

He began to weave his hair into a long rope as he walked toward the top of the mountain. When he arrived at the summit, he planted his feet firmly on the ground and threw a lasso up toward the sun. He pulled to tighten the rope and strained against the moving sun. The sun was reluctant to slow, but Maui did not give up and made the sun promise to move more slowly.