Glossary of Hawaiian Words

aina. Land.
anuenue. Rainbow.
awa. Kava, the kava plant, the root of which makes a narcotic beverage in Polynesia; the beverage itself.
Ewa. Name of area and also a village on Oahu, and west of Honolulu. Also used locally to refer to the direction towards ewa.
hale. house.
 hapu’u. A tree fern that grows in Hawaii.
hulihuli. To turn over. Hulihuli chicken is chicken broiled by turning over a charcoal fire.
ka. (or kel) the. (Used before nouns as an article, e.g. ka aina, the land.)
kala koa. Multi-colored, calico.
Ka Leo O Hawaii. “The Voice (leo) of Hawaii,” the University of Hawaii at Manoa student newspaper. Ka Leo was also the name of a Royalist newspaper in the 1800’s.
kalo. Taro. Refers, therefore to wetland; see kula.

kiawe. The algaroba tree; many kiawe trees grew on the Manoa site before the University was established, and many still grow on the campus.
Konohiki. Land rights holder.
kula. Dry (land). An act of 1884 made a distinction between kula (dry) land and kalo (taro, therefore wet) land.
mahiole. Feather helmet.
makahiki. An annual Hawaiian festival that began about mid-October and continued for about four months.
makai. Toward the sea, opposite of mauka.
mauka. Toward the inland, opposite of makai.
mo’o. A lizard, water spirit.
pali. Cliff.
peruru. Prickly pear cactus (that was on campus site before the College of Hawaii was established.)
ulu. Breadfruit.
Waikiki. As a directional term means in the direction of Waikiki.