

### Whale Details

#### Activity 3:

#### Ulana Launiu (Coconut Leaf Weaving)



Ancient Hawaiian people lived a lifestyle dependent on their surroundings. They understood that if they cared for the land and sea with the utmost respect then, in turn, the land and sea would provide all the resources needed to sustain their life. Living with this concept in mind, the Hawaiian people learned to master the advantages that nature provided.

One advantage provided by nature was the *niu* tree. *Niu*, commonly known as coconut, provided many invaluable resources for the Hawaiian community. In fact, every part of the tree was used. The base of the trunk was used to make drums. Its fruit provided food and water and the fibrous husk of the fruit was made into cordage. The leaves of the *niu* were used to thatch roofs and were woven into baskets.

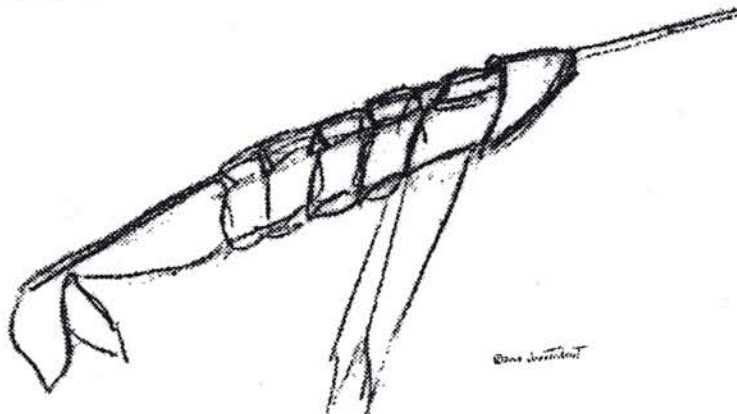
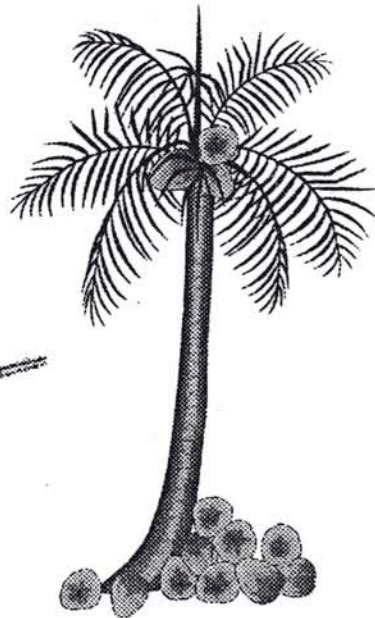
Today, many people still use this plant for these purposes and have taken the art of *ulana launiu* (coconut leaf weaving) to a higher level. The leaves are creatively woven into hats, baskets, fish, birds and even whales! This activity introduces students to traditional Hawaiian cultural practices and challenges the students with hand-eye

#### Materials Needed

- Scissors
- 1 coconut leaf separated from main frond stem

#### Vocabulary

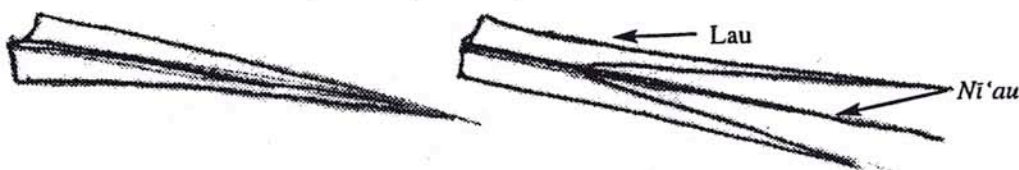
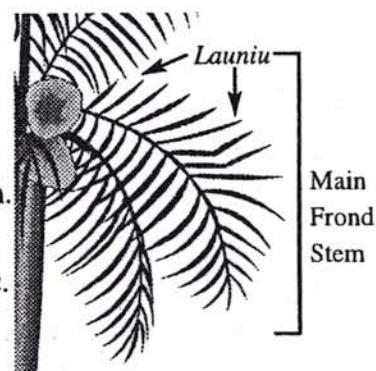
Lau - Leaf	Niu - Coconut
Launiu - Coconut Leaf	Puka - Hole, loop
Koholā - Whale	Ulana - To weave
Nī'au - Midrib	



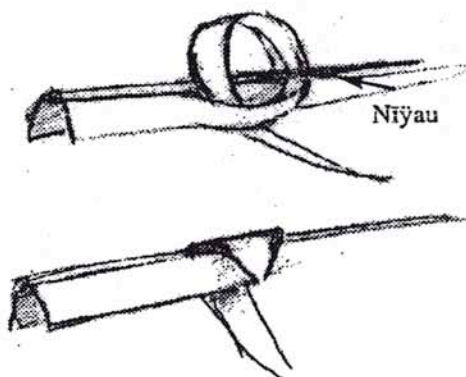
## Tools for Teaching About Humpback Whales

### Activity 3 (continued): Ulana Launio Coconut Leaf Weaving

1. Cut the *launio* at its base to separate it from the main frond stem.
2. Separate each half of the *launio* from the *nī'au* by forcing your thumb's fingernail through the *lau* and sliding it along the *nī'au*. The separation should start at least 5" from the base of the leaf. (Hint: A scissors may be used if you are unable to separate the halves of the *lau* with your fingernail.)

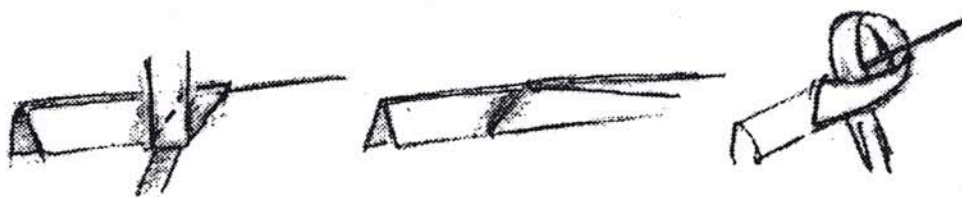


3. Hold the base of the *lau* in your left hand. The two halves of the *lau* should be dangling freely and the *nī'au* should be on the top-side.



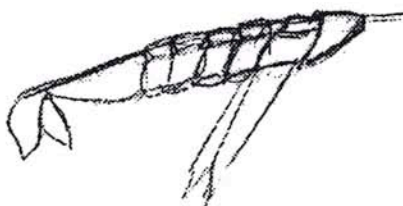
4. With your right hand, grab the right *lau* and make a loop. The loop is created by weaving the right *lau* under the *nī'au* then through the *puka*. Pull down firmly. Repeat on left side.

5. With the right side, fold the right *lau* up so that it is perpendicular to the *nī'au*. Then, create a diagonal fold by turning the *lau* so that it is parallel to the *nī'au* as shown. Repeat step 4 to lock the right *lau* in place. Repeat on left side.



6. Repeat step 5 until you have four or five folds on each side. (Hint: The tighter you pull the *lau* during the locking method, the neater your *koholā* will be.)

7. Trim the remaining leaves to form the pectoral fins and fluke of the *koholā*.



8. Have fun with your new *koholā* and the art of *launio*!!