

## The Chiefly Classes of Hawaii

We are again explaining the various kinds of chiefs in each class, just as the ancients classified them. So shall we know the position held by each chief in his own class.

## Class 1 -- The Ni'aupi'o Chiefs

His father was a high chief whose father and mother were also high chiefs. His mother, too, was also equal to him in having kapus and was of the same chiefly class. After having dwelt in the warmth [of love], the child born to them was called a ni'aupi'o chief.

His was the prostrating kapu. High chiefs removed their clothing upon entering his house. The kapus of the chiefs of this class were fiery and burning.

## Class 2 -- The Pi'o Chiefs

If two ni'aupi'o chiefs, who wished to preserve their own royal kapus from going outside of the family, become united, the child born to them was of the pi'o rank.

Should a brother and sister marry, whose parents were ni'aupi'o chiefs, their child was a pi'o chief. The kapus of the chiefs of this class exceeded all others and they were called gods. Only at night could they speak to the people.

They did not go abroad in day-light, lest a shadow fall upon them. Intense were the prostrating kapus, the fiery kapus, the burning kapus. The chiefs held their breaths [with fear] at the kapus of the chiefs of this class.

The Chiefly Classes of Hawaii. Translation from Kuokoa, March 10, 1883.

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