

Maui and the Sun ~ A Hawaiian Myth ~

The sun god raced across the sky each day.

He traveled so fast that people didn't have time to finish their work in the daylight.

"I will capture him and make him move more slowly," said Maui.

Maui went to his grandmother who prepares breakfast for the sun god.

She showed him how to set a trap for the rays of the sun. Then she handed him a magic ax.

When the first ray of the sun reached for the breakfast, it became trapped in the net.

The sun struggled to free himself and bellowed. "I am the greatest god of earth and sky!"

"You don't listen to the people. You must move slowly so the day is as long as night," said Maui.

The sun scorched Maui "Let me go, or I will burn whatever is in my way!"

Maui beat the sun with the magic ax.

The sun cried out, "Stop! I will do what you ask, but if I travel slowly every day, I won't have enough time to rest."

"Would you agree to go slowly one-half of the year and travel at your own speed the rest of the time?" Maui asked.

The sun agreed. Now there are long days in the summer so people have time to finish their work. In the winter there are long nights so there is more time to rest.