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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents . . .

“Hawaiian Lunacy”

Play version
for 12 to 16 guests

by Stephanie Chambers

First edition

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The Suspects

Hawaii Island (nicknamed “The Big Island”) – is the island with an active volcano called “Kilauea”. A number of people live there. They claim it is safe because volcano emits lava and ash in the other direction. It is also the home of Pele – the “Goddess of Fire” or “Goddess Of The Volcano” as she is known. The rainfall on the island is extremely high and there are lots of lava tubes, butterflies and rainbows.

Before the Polynesians came to Hawaii, it was inhabited by little people known as Menehune [pronounced meh-neh-HOO-neh]. Some say Molowa had some Menehune blood in him and that was why he was only four foot tall. He originally came from Maui but he had been on the island for a number of years. Recently, however, he had been causing so much mischief that people were starting to complain.

Today it was discovered that he has mysteriously disappeared. Perhaps he has moved to another island or back to Maui. Your task is to work out who rid the island of Molowa.

The suspects are:

Beachie – I’m a female world championship surfer. I’ve won it so many times, I’ve almost lost count. I have a holiday house on the Big Island. I am a pretty tough woman. You have to be to surf as you have to fight for each wave with a bunch of guys. *Dress suggestion: Dress in your swimsuit and carry a towel, a leg rope, surfboard wax, sunscreen, a surfboard or any other similar props you can find.*

Brad – I’m a lifeguard at the beach. In my spare time, I go bike riding and play the ukulele. I like the fact that the ukulele was invented in Hawaii and that it means “jumping fleas” and people called it that because the musician’s fingers flew about like fleas on it. *Dress suggestion: Dress like a lifeguard. Perhaps carry a CPR chart. If you want you can also carry a bicycle helmet and and/or a ukulele.*

Kainoa – (pronounced *Ki-no-uh*) I have a macadamia nut farm in Kona. I also grow some coffee beans on it. Although macadamias are native to Australia, most people mistakenly believe they are native to Hawaii. I don’t mind because we sell a lot at the airport. I have a stand near the highway so I also sell to tourists. The tour buses stop at it. I lay on my Hawaiian accent for the tourists and I try to be as much of a character as I can be by calling everyone *sista, bro, auntie or uncle.*
Dress suggestion: Khaki shirt and shorts. Carry some macadamia nuts to offer people you meet. Ideally ones in their shells and also carry a nutcracker.

Tanya – I’m a seismologist and I’m proud of it. People sometimes get a tremor when I’m around – only joking. I spend a lot of time monitoring the volcano we have here. I’m from mainland USA but I have made Hawaii my base. *Dress suggestion: Wear an old T-shirt and write things on it like “Seis the day”, “Seis Wise”. You can also wear fatigue pants and carry a compass, flashlight and hiking boots.*

Penny – I climb coconut palms and de-nut them so they don’t drop on tourists’ heads when they go to the beach. At the markets I sell fresh green coconuts for people to drink. *Dress suggestion: Wear a sarong and carry a coconut.*

Mango Man – I’m well-known identity and I live in the rainforest. No one knows exactly where. I walk to town most days. I live off the land, but sometimes when the fruit isn’t ripe I go to the Church soup kitchen. Some people think I have eaten their dog, but that isn’t true. *Dress suggestions: Carry a hand woven bag over your shoulder with mangos and water in it and come barefoot and darkly tanned. Only wear old dirty shorts and no shirt (if possible). Speak softly, dreamily.*

Pua (pronounced *poo’ ah*) – My name means “flower”. I am a descendent of the royal family that used to run Hawaii. The last few leaders didn’t have any children, but I am a cousin of an earlier leader. I believe in taking back Hawaii for Hawaiians and separating from the US. I am passionate about this cause. After all the land was taken away from Hawaiians and they broke all their promises. I love children and good uke (ukulele) music. Some people say I have a sharp tongue. *Dress suggestions: Wear an Hawaiian print sarong and a head lei made of ferns or other greenery. Carry the Hawaiian independence flag.*

Ernie – I am a vermin exterminator. I remove cockroaches and other pests that are common in this tropical climate. I am into bugs especially the kinds that make some people scream and run. *Dress suggestion: Wear grey work shorts and a white shirt. If possible, bring along some plastic cockroaches or other pests.*

Nani (pronounced *nah' nee*) – My name means “beautiful”. I sing at one of the best resorts. I’ve recorded a few CDs and am still waiting for my big break. Jazz is my favorite thing to sing besides Hawaiian tunes. I love sharing my culture with the tourists, except when they are culturally insensitive. *Dress suggestion: Wear a sarong, a tightly fitting top and make up. Have your hair down and put a lei or flower in your hair. Go barefoot.*

Don – I design tropical houses that are suited to this climate. It’s a shame that isn’t what most people want to live in. I am also into bicycling and planting trees. *Dress suggestion: Wear business clothes and carry some house plants. Maybe carry a bicycle helmet.*

Lana (pronounced *lah nah*) – My name means “calm as still waters”. Maybe that is why I try to be the opposite. I take tourists sky-diving, bungee jumping, rafting or on any other adventurous activity they want to do besides visiting the volcano. *Dress suggestion: Wear sports clothes and carry some props like an oar from a raft and so on.*

Keanu – I fish both from the land and in my boat. My father was a fisherman and his father was before him. So I carry on the tradition. I also play guitar and write songs. *Dress suggestion: Wear old clothes and carry a fishing line and/or some fish lures. Carry a guitar.*

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1 Investigator (optional but recommended)

Kerry Hastings (male or female) – Ever since I watch Hawaii Five-O as a child on TV, I have wanted to be a cop in Hawaii. So as soon as I was old enough to join the force, I did. *Dress suggestions: Dress in a police uniform but maybe add a lei to it. Or dress in a suit like they did in Hawaii Five-O (although it is ridiculous given the climate).*

3 Witnesses (optional roles)

Kuhea – I am a lei maker. I have a stall at the airport and I sell leis to locals and tourists. *Dress suggestions: Wear a mumu or a brightly colored dress, flip flops and have a flower behind your ear. Use 12 inch (30cm) lei needles to make your leis. Bring a box of flowers (or fake ones), sit on the floor and start stringing them together to make a lei.*

Mike – I am a pig hunter. I live in Fern Forest and I live off the land. I am hapa Hawaiian (half-Hawaiian) and my wife is full Hawaiian. In my spare time, I coach a soccer team. *Dress suggestions: Put on some fake tattoos, wear a sleeveless T-shirt and cut off pants and flip flops. Carry a machete.*

Yuki – I am Japanese and a bird researcher. My specialty is Nene – the endangered Hawaiian goose. I am passionate about my work. In my spare time, I talk at schools. *Dress suggestions: Dress very neatly and carry a bird book and some binoculars.*

Name Tags

The Suspects

Beachie
(suspect)

Brad
(suspect)

Kainoa
(suspect)

Tanya
(suspect)

Penny
(suspect)

Mango Man
(suspect)

Pua
(suspect)

Ernie
(suspect)

Nani
(suspect)

Don
(suspect)

Lana
(suspect)

Keanu
(suspect)

**4 optional witnesses
and investigators**

Kerry Hastings - Investigator	Kuhea
Mike	Yuki

Merri Mysteries
presents...

“Hawaiian Lunacy”

by Stephanie Chambers

The Play

Hawaiian Lunacy - Act One

Note: *Although this is in play format, you do not have to take to a stage and act it out. You can just sit around a dining table and read out your lines or sit in a circle on sofas etc.*

Note: *If it says the line may be said by “Anyone”, we recommend that one of the optional witnesses take a turn to say the line. If there are no optional witnesses, then everyone should take a turn saying one of these lines, however, the person to whom the line is addressed should not say it (generally this is the person who speaks next). You may like to work out beforehand who will say each of these “Anyone” clues and write their character’s name next to each one.*

Brad: I didn’t hear Molowa making any splashes last night. I think he’s gone away.

Pua: There was an omen this morning – the sky was dark and there was a green tinge to it. Traditionally that is taken to mean God isn’t happy with us.

Kainoa: You don’t really believe all those myths do you? People who believe that sort of thing are nuts and believe me I know as I’m a nut man myself.

Tanya: The instruments showed something strange this morning. It was a tremor – a large one but it only lasted a fraction of the time of a normal tremor.

Beachie: The ocean was very calm this morning also. Calmer than normal. Yet a tremor normally stirs things up – makes the surf a bit more exciting.

Ernie: I had a weird experience too. I went to inspect a house that had reported a really bad cockroach infestation and I found all the roaches running out of the house. Maybe Molowa was like a pied piper. But it would be bad for my business if he led all the cockroaches out of town.

Mango Man: As I started walking to town at dawn this morning, I saw a whole lot of fruit bats heading out over the ocean. That struck me as bizarre. Normally at dawn they are heading back from a night out eating fruit. They’re normally settling into the trees not heading out to sea. Maybe they were escorting Molowa to the next island or wherever he has chosen to go.

Penny: All the coconuts I picked this morning were dry – no milk in them. That struck me as a bit odd.

Keanu: The fish weren’t biting this morning.

Nani: When I woke up, I found my voice was hoarse and I couldn’t speak at all – major laryngitis. But honey and a rest have helped fix it.

Don: I was cycling to see a block of land a client wants to build on. On the way there, I saw a double rainbow – one rainbow inside the other one.

Lana: We went to go down the rapids but they weren’t as turbulent as they normally are. It’s as if the water level had dropped overnight and yet it’s too soon after the rainy season for that to have happened.

Anyone: A psychic has confirmed that Molowa has gone. These omens that you have witnessed also confirm that.

Nani: Molowa had been causing so much havoc lately. Why he turned Mango Man into a man obsessed with being loving. We preferred the old Mango Man – the recluse we all knew and respected.

Mango Man: Yes ever since he hit me with that double arrow – I haven't felt the same. I had been really angry with the way everyone wastes the world's resources by using air-conditioning and then after the arrows all I could think about was wanting to kiss and hug everyone I met.

Penny: Nani was really annoyed with Molowa because he hit Mango Man with a love arrow. She is Mango Man's nearest neighbor so he keeps bringing her fruit and flowers and wanting to kiss and hug her. He walks miles in the heat. His body odor would wilt anyone. He tried to do that to me too but fortunately I could just climb the nearest tree to get away from him.

Nani: Yes. I must admit I have taken lately to locking my door. Otherwise Mango Man just wanders in. He says he doesn't want me to be lonely.

Kainoa: Molowa thought he'd help me by shaking my trees so they'd drop their nuts. But he didn't realize that now we have mechanical harvesters and because he just shook them, we had to get down on our hands and knees to pick up each nut. It took weeks of extra work and cost me all of this year's profit.

Penny: Yes. Sometimes Molowa shook my palm trees too and the coconuts fell off. I'd find them scattered about in the morning.

Anyone: Molowa had been on the Big Island for many years and he is an old man. As such, his hearing and sight were not the greatest.

Brad: I heard Molowa calling you something strange Ernie. What was he calling you?

Ernie: Molowa was always calling me “cockroach counter”. I hate being called that. My work is very scientific and deserves a lot more respect.

Beachie: Molowa thought the big waves were too dangerous so he'd do things like hide my leg rope. He didn't realize that riding the fifty-foot waves was how I gained my fame and how I can keep it too.

Pua: Bill Clinton passed some legislation apologizing for how the US government disbanded the Hawaiian royalty. So this means the royalty still exists. Molowa was jealous of this as he thought he should be the ruler as the Menehune came to Hawaii before us Polynesians. So he was always trying to disrupt my campaign to bring back the royalty.

Lana: Molowa didn't like me taking tourists on things like speed boats because he thought they were too noisy. So he'd do things like hide the keys to the boat and so on.

Don: Molowa used to think that the tiny model houses I built were for him to play with. So I kept finding he'd opened the doors and moved the tiny furniture and so on. It was annoying especially if I didn't discover it until the client was looking at it.

Keanu: Molowa used to keep building fish ponds. But he'd make them too large and never finish them. And as is the Menehune custom, if it isn't finished in one night, it just doesn't get done. People kept blaming me for all these half-built fish ponds – thinking I made them. They really looked untidy.

Tanya: Someone fiddled with some of my equipment. This led to some strange readings. One time we almost activated a worldwide Tsunami alert because we thought there'd been a large tremor in the ocean. Lucky we double checked.

Brad: Molowa loved eating bananas. But he'd always leave peels near my lifeguard tower so it made me look like a messy eater. I'm glad he's gone.

Anyone: Molowa has no sense of smell. Legend has it is because he stuck his nose in a wasp's nest and they took revenge on his nose in particular.

Anyone: Molowa would just pop up anywhere he wanted. He didn't have any respect for other people's privacy and he didn't care if he was trespassing on private property.

Anyone: Some of the longest and most vertically extensive lava tubes in the world are on the Big Island of Hawaii. They have carried molten lava 50 miles or more. The one most people visit is called Thurston Lava Tube or "Nahuku" which refers to the small protuberances on the walls of the tube.

Anyone: Molowa was a very small man. He was only four foot tall. But he acted as if he was a giant in terms of his ego.

Kainoa: Sometimes I wished I could eat him. But I knew he wouldn't taste too good.

Anyone: Molowa left a note saying he had left "due to the influence of a certain person who shall remain unnamed".

Anyone: I have found little tiny piles of broken mirrors in the lava tubes. I think Molowa loved them and collected them.

Anyone: Lana fell out of a raft recently and the tourists on it had to help rescue her.

Lana: Well. That can happen to anyone. If the boat goes over a big rock, anyone can fall out.

Anyone: The green leaves, which are called la'i, were used in cleansing rituals and to remove evil by the kahuna pule heiau – the temple priests. These leaves have a spiritual affect. It isn't because they have a particular smell.

Anyone: Pua has a wide variety of native green leaves growing in her backyard. She only has fruit trees and bananas in her front yard.

Anyone: A lot of macadamia nuts have been returned to farmers lately because they say they have been picked when they weren't ripe enough.

Pua: I heard on the grapevine that you have been having a lot of trouble taking your measurements lately Tanya. Was Molowa interfering with your instruments?

Tanya: Well my instruments were playing up a bit – possibly some magnetic interference. I don't see how Molowa could have gotten into the lab.

Ernie: There has been a plague of earwigs on the Big Island.

Don: Mango Man told me he had some sun spots removed recently. Fortunately they were not cancerous.

Mango Man: Yes. I get checked out regularly for sun spots. I like being outdoors, so it is just something I have to do.

Beachie: A repeat of the Gulliver's Travels mini-series was on TV recently. Maybe watching those little Lilliputians gave someone an idea of how to rid the island of Molowa.

Keanu: A tourist returned home recently to the mainland and was ill. People are saying it was because they had sold some pieces of lava and some rocks from the Big Island and Molowa had told Pele about it and she had cursed them.