



“Hawaiika” isn’t just a psychoactive brew. It’s a life-enhancing, entheogenic experience that, much like what happens when you visit Hawaii, takes place inside you and remains with you wherever you go. Native to the Hawaii islands and others in the “Pacific Rim of Fire,” the Hawaiika plant was shown to Dr. ZZ in 1998 when she was first researching South American Ayahuasca through the Santo Daime Church. It was at that time that ZZ made the acquaintance of a ninth generation kahuna (medicine man) on the island of Maui, a man who had been trained by family members in the ancient arts of Kupuna and Huna.

The kahuna led ZZ deep into Lao Valley where he showed her, via observation and word of mouth, the means for identifying and preparing the Hawaiika leaves into tea. Although different in size and scale from Machu Picchu, Lao Valley has many visual similarities. Where the 15th-century Inca citadel of Machu Picchu is located on a 7,970 ft (2,430 m) mountain ridge, the Lao Needle (“Kūkaemoku”) is a vegetation-covered lava remnant rising 2,250 ft (690 m) above sea level. Similarly, *pikchu*, in the Quechua language, means “solid, pointed cone,” whereas the “needle” is a sharp ridge that gives the appearance of a spire when viewed end-on.



In much the same way that these two landmarks are similar yet different, the Hawaiika brew is similar yet different when compared to South American Ayahuasca. The Hawaiika leaf and Ayahuasca leaf (*psychotria viridis*) are cousins in the same plant family. Where South American Ayahuasca uses a vine (*Banisteriopsis caapi*) to extract the psychotropic properties in the leaf, Hawaiika uses a tropical flower.

In Hawaiian language, “Ha” means breath of life, “wai” is a code word for mana, life force energy, and “aka” alludes to clarity, reflection and the desire for peace. The preparation of the Hawaiika brew is an esoteric oral tradition, which the kahuna who showed the plants to Dr. ZZ cautioned her

not to share casually with others. Twenty years later, with the assistance of Chief ‘Golden Feather,’ ZZ started introducing Hawaiika to the public at Muaisa Hale Pule. Those who participate with the Muaisa Hale Pule shamans and drink the Hawaiika brew often find that integrating the information gleaned during ceremony comes more easily, naturally, and in a more direct, flowing and connected manner than with South American Ayahuasca. This is especially true when newly acquired perspectives are given time to settle and flow into various aspects of career, direction, relationships, etc. over the course of weeks, months or even years.