From ancient times, the island names of this archipelago were remembered in the stories and creation chants, and for some of the islands, their names were remembered but their locations were forgotten by man.

Puakea Nogelmeier (1995)

To bring back this once commonplace knowledge, the following is a compilation of the Hawaiian names that have disappeared and been recovered.

Reference:

Puakea Nogelmeier "Rebirth of an Archipelago: Sustaining a Hawaiian Cultural Identity for People and Homeland." Kikiloi, Kekuewa.

Hōlanikū, Mokūpāpapa (Kure Atoll)

Hōlanikū, meaning "rebirth of the island" or "raising from the dead" (or "bringing forth heaven"), is a single name that stands alone, corresponding to the location of Kure Atoll at the very end of the island chain. This name is used in many different contexts to describe the homeland of gods such as Kane and Kamuela. Ni'ihau, the northwesternmost island chain, and Wa'a's Mokūpāpapa literally means "flat island," which was ascribed to Kure Atoll by Hawaiian Kingdom officials in the 19th century, when King David Kalakaua sent an envoy to the island, "which was ascribed to Kure Atoll by the British and French.

Mokupāpapa translates to "the quadruped running in the rough seas." The word moku (island) relates to the spiritual significance of the island, given the fact that large lagoons, such as that at Midway, often reflect their spiritual image into the sky. Pihemanu means "loud din of birds" and refers to the loud chatter of the millions of birds that come to this atoll each year.

Kuaihelani, Pihemanu (Midway Atoll)

Kuaihelani, meaning "the backbone of heaven," describes a mythical floating island in the sky, which could derive from the fact that large lagoons, such as that at Midway, often reflect their spiritual image into the sky. Pihemanu means "the loud din of birds" and refers to the loud chatter of the millions of birds that come to this atoll each year.

Manawai, Holoikauaaua (Pearl and Hermes Atolls)

Manawai, which means "warped, deformed or bent in," provides the imagery of the spiritual process of bending inward to reveal the unchanging nature of one’s true underlying spirit. It can also be defined as "branching water." Wa can also refer to "realize" or "spirit." This interpretation focuses on the transitional nature of water as a natural element. The name Holoikauaaua celebrates the Hawaiian mono Redeems that lead out and run here. Holoikauaaua directly relates to the word 'holoikauaaua, which literally translates to "the gushed running in the rough seas."