

March 2012 Skies

Date

Event

Saturday, March 3

Hōkū'ulapīna'au (Mars) at Opposition

Monday, March 5

Ukialali'i (Mercury) at greatest elongation
Hōkū'ulapīna'au (Mars) closest approach to Earth

Wednesday, March 7

Hoku (Full Moon) at 11:39pm HST

Thursday, March 8

Hōkū'ulapīna'au (Mars) 10° north of the Moon

Sunday, March 11

Makulu (Saturn) 6° north of the Moon Daylight Savings Begins (US Mainland)

Wednesday, March 14

Kāloakūkahi (Last Quarter Moon) at 3:25pm HST

Thursday, March 15

Hōkūloa (Venus) 3° north of Ka'āwela (Jupiter)

Monday, March 19

Vernal Equinox – First day of Spring

Thursday, March 22

Muku (New Moon) at 4:37am HST

Sunday, March 25

Ka'āwela (Jupiter) 3° south of the Moon

Monday, March 26

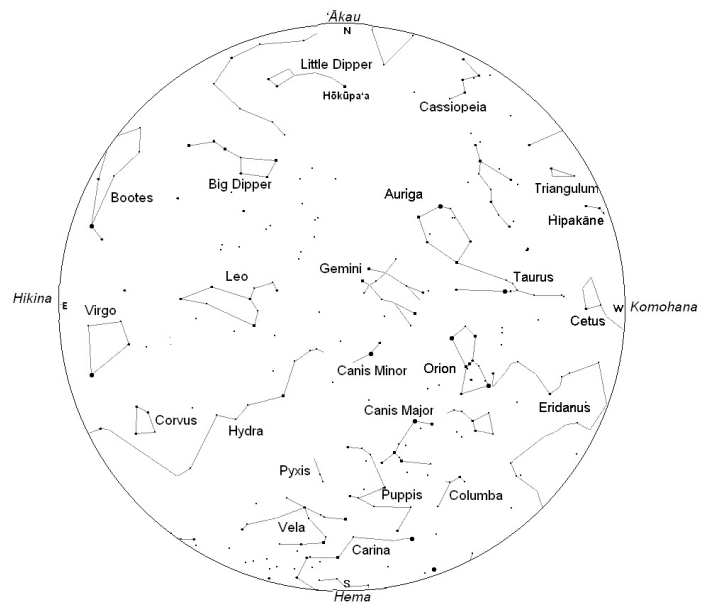
Hōkūloa (Venus) 2° north of the Moon

Tuesday, March 27

Hōkūloa (Venus) at greatest elongation

Friday, March 30

Olekūkahi (First Quarter Moon) at 9:41am HST



March 2012 Highlights

Mercury is in the western sky after sunset the last week of the month.

Venus will be visible for over 3 hours after the sun sets reaching greatest elongation on the 27th. It will make a spectacular pair with Jupiter on the 15th when the two are in conjunction.

Mars is in the East at sunset. It is bright this month since it reaches opposition on the 3rd.

Jupiter is visible in Aries this month. It will be in the southwest setting just after 9pm.

Saturn rises around 9pm in the Eastern sky and is visible in Virgo. It is improving in brightness this month.

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 11 at 2am for folks on the US mainland. Typically clocks are adjusted forward one hour near the start of spring and are adjusted backward in autumn – “Spring Forward, Fall Back.” It is not observed in Hawai'i!

The Vernal (Spring) Equinox occurs on the 19th of the month at 7:14pm. At the equinox we experience equal day and equal night (12 hours of each). Both hemispheres of the Earth receive the same amount of sunlight. Equinoxes and solstices are celebrated by many cultures.