



Makauwahi Cave as it might have appeared 1000 B.C. Painting by Dr. Julian Hume

“David Burney is the great time traveler of our age. Nobody else can lead us into such a rich prehistoric past and bring us back to the present with so many urgent tasks to do. This book is a masterpiece.”—Tim Flannery, author of The Weather Makers: How Man Is Changing the Climate and What It Means for Life on Earth

Back to the Future in the Caves of Kaua`i: A Scientist’s Adventures in the Dark

David A. Burney
Yale University Press

**On sale here and at all major
book outlets nationwide.**

For two decades, paleoecologist David Burney and his wife Lida Pigott Burney have led an excavation of Makauwahi Cave on the island of Kaua`i, uncovering the amazingly varied wealth of plants and animals that have inhabited Hawaii throughout its history. Burney has focused his investigations on the dramatic ecological changes that began after the arrival of humans one thousand years ago. Using Kaua`i as an ecological prototype and drawing on his experiences in Madagascar, Mauritius, and other exciting locales, Burney considers several critical questions: What is it about human arrival in any place that is so inevitably troublesome for nature? What has happened on Kaua`i in recent millennia and what might happen in the near future? What can the story of Kaua`i tell us about the rest of the planet? Burney has built his life and career around the search for answers, and his account of his work is as fascinating as the questions themselves. Intriguing illustrations, including a reconstruction of the ancient ecological landscape of Kaua`i by the artist Julian Hume (above), bring to life the ecological marvels Burney describes.

