

UWOLANI

CHANTING UNTO THE CHIEFS



Hālau o Kekuhi

Two of the oldest traditions of the Hawaiian culture are mele oli and mele hula. These traditions have been handed down to Hālau o Kekuhi through many generations and sustained through matrilineal descent.

The Hālau o Kekuhi's foundation is on the island of Hawai'i in the district of Hilo. The Kumu Hula are Nālani Kanaka'ole and Pualani Kanaka'ole Kanahele, daughters of renown composer, kumu hula and teacher "Aunty" Edith Kanaka'ole. The rank of kumu hula for this hālau is passed to the next generation after the preceeding generation has died. Hālau o Kekuhi can account for seven generations.

The hālau is celebrated for its mastery of the 'aiha'a style of hula and many different styles of oli. Hālau o Kekuhi has been invited to travel extensively, performing throughout the United States, as well as Canada, Europe, Asia and Russia. In September of 1993, Hālau o Kekuhi earned the prestigious National Heritage Fellowship Award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Mahalo to our mākua and kūpuna who gave us a gift from the past for the future; our families who believed in our endeavor; the members of Hālau o Kekuhi who exhibited steadfastness, loyalty and a great interest in preserving the Hawaiian lifestyle. Mahalo nui loa to Keoni Fujitan and Liko Records for the preservation of our sounds and voices for the future. Mahalo a nui to Jon de Nello for revisiting this project and adding new life and mana to it all.





I) Kau Ka Hali'a

An oli to Laka, the deity of hula, whose many kinolau can be found in the fragrant upland forests of Hawai'i.

Kau ka halia ē
I ka manawa e hiamoe
Kou ho'āla 'oe
O 'oe 'o Hālulani
O Hoakalei
Me he manu e kani nei
I ke kuahiwi, i ke kualono
I ku'u maha lehua
I kūmoho kīekī tā i luna i uka.
Ho'i au me 'oe e Laka
I ka nahelehele
I hoa ka'ana no ia kuahiwi,
kualono
E ho'i mai ai.

A premonition appears
During the time of slumber
You are my renewal
You are Hālulani
Hoakalei
Resembling a bird who sings
In the mountains, upon mountain ridges
In my lehua grove
That looms towering above, into the uplands.
I shall go with thee Laka
Into the forest
As a companion with whom to share the
mountains, the ridges
Into which we shall return.

2) Eō Mai 'O Kauku

A mele composed by Nālani Kanaka'ole to honor the ancestors of Edith Kekuhikupū'ouenāali'iokohala Kanahelē Kenao Kanaka'ole and her mother Mary Keli'i Kekuewa Athena Kanaele Fuji. This mele employs devices of Hawaiian poetry which emphasize the significance of one's birthplace, the cutting of the umbilical cord, as well as the wind and the rain names associated with the area. Kauku is a cinder cone located just north of Hilo.

Eō mai kauku kū hanohano i ka malie:
Ka lei umaua o Hilo Pāpū
Lei hiwa lani i wili la i ke kula o Kahua.
Lihau puni i ka makani Kihenelehu
Ua lohe ia ka nakulu o 'Akaka
Mai nā kupu ahi a ka wahine
I ke one ho'i o Kaipalaoa
Pae a'e i nā ulu lá au 'ulu o Pi'opio
A kau ma waena i nā lehua mamo o
Ho'oulu
I ke au wana'ula lani e 'ōli'i mai.
I ola e nā kini, I ola e nā mamo ē.

Standing stately in the calm kauku
The breast wreath of Hilo at the cliffs
Entwined at the plains of Kahua is my sacred wreath
Surrounded by the lehua basket wind rain
The rumbling of 'Akaka was heard
From the sacred fire of the woman
To the returning sands of Kaipalaoa
Coming ashore at the breadfruit groves of Pi'opio
To settle among the yellow lehua
blossoms of Ho'oulu
In the time when the red streak in the heaven appears.
Life to the people, Life to the children

Many forms taken by a supernatural body.

3) He Kau No Hi'iaka

This is a song of praise for Hi'iaka the younger sister of Pele. This mele describes eruptions along Kilauea's east rift zone from Kāniahiku to Waiwelawela and compares the eruptions to the many moods of the sea.

Āpopo'i haki kaiko'o ka lua.
Haki kū haki kākala a ka 'ino
Pā'a ku'u uō lehua no Kāniahiku ē
Wahine 'ai lehua o Kaumu
Kupukupu a'eha ka pōhaku
I ka 'iuwalu ia ke ahi
I ke kaunu a ka Pu'ulena.
Huki ka molu, pāpāpa ka 'aina
Ha'aha'a ka lani, kaiko'o ka mauna ē
Ha ka moana; popo'i Kilauea
Haledo 'o Papalauahi ē
'O mai Pele i ona kino
Ka hākikili ka ua mai ka lani
Nei ka honua i ka öla'i ē
Haka 'Ikuwā ka pohā kō'ele'ele.
Kū mai Puna kīekī
Ha'a ka ulu a ka 'ōpu'a.
Puehu maila uka o Keahialaka
Pa'u i ke ahi 'o Waiwelawela o ka lua ē
Aloha ua po'e lá o uka o ka lua ē.

The high surf-pit breaks upon the shore.
It bursts on high, breaking pointedly by the storm
With deafening noise the lehua of Kāniahiku roars
The woman who consumes the lehua of Kaumu
The stones grow in agony
From the clawing of the fire
In the rising of Pu'ulena.
The island is drawn up and flattened down
The heavens are low, the mountain is surging
The ocean dances, Kilauea is covered
Papalauahi is left jagged
Pele pierces it with her body
Thunder peels forth, then the rain
The earth rumbles with quakes
The season of 'Ikuwā is explosive.
Puna rises high above
The cloud billows are low.
The upland of Keahialaka is scattered
Waiwelawela is now soot because of the
pit's fire
Greetings to those who live in the upland of the pit.

4) 'Oaka Ka Lani

Edith Kanaka'ole composed this mele in 1977 during a series of eruptions in the Puna area. The people of Kalapana had mixed feelings about the eruption because it threatened their homes. Though the last verse says that Pele would continue her journey and reach the sea, this particular flow stopped short. More recent eruptions have since entered the ocean covering much of Kalapana and adding new land to the Puna coast.

Halulu ka honua i ka öla'i ē
I laila o uka o Kalalua
'Imi a'ela i kahi a pohā kea
Waele ka honua puka a'ela

The earth roars in the quake
There in the uplands of Kalalua
Searching for a place to burst forth
The earth seeks a path, then bursts forth.

Ua pō'ohina lā ē.
Ho'i ka wahine i ka 'aina
Pōlo'i nō he 'ai he īa.
Moe ihola a pau ke kolu
Kani hou nā manu
Ho'olulu ka lehua ē.
Nā lehua i hoa me ka malle
Kau i ka pū'u o Kauka ē.
Mālamalama he ao ua 'eha
Eha ka mana'o
Nā kupa o ka 'aina ē.
E nonome ana a ma'a mau
Ūhi ūhi e manene ai
Ka hana o ka wahine o ka hua
He 'e'epa, he akua
Ahīena ena ē.
'Owaka ka lani, naue ka honua
Pō uahi ka mahina, pouli ē
A pāapū ka moku o Keawe
Ke iho nei ka pele, 'au ke kai ē.
He inoa no Hīlakaikapoliopele.

5) 'O Wākea Noho iā Papahānaumoku

One of many ko'ihonua or creation chants. This mele honors Wākea, Papahānaumoku and Ho'ohokūkalani as parents of our island chain.

'O Wākea noho iā Papahānaumoku
Hānau 'o Hawa'i, he moku
Hānau 'o Maui, he moku
Ho'i hou 'o Wākea noho iā
Ho'ohokūkalani
Hānau 'o Moloka'i, he moku
Hānau 'o Lāna'i'aua, he moku
Li'iopū punula'u 'o Papa iā
Ho'ohokūkalani
Ho'i hou 'o Papa noho iā Wākea
Hānau 'o O'ahu, he moku
Hānau 'o Kaua'i, he moku
Hānau 'o Ni'ihau, he moku
He i'a a'o Kaho'olawe.

This gray-haired woman of the pit.
The woman returns to the land
Hungry for a meal of fish
Then she sleeps for 3 days
The birds come out and sing again
And the lehua flourishes.
The lehua along with the male
Placed on the hill of Kauka.
A bright light in the upland, painful
Heavy are the thoughts
Of the natives of the land.
She is rolling down as usual
Surging and billowing causing fear throughout
The action of the woman of the pit
An extraordinary person, a god
Raging fire.
The heavens burst, and the earth moves
Darkened by the smoke is the moon, dark indeed
And the island of Keawe is overcome
As lava journeys down, soon to reach the sea.
A name song for Hīlakaikapoliopele.

6) Mele Ho'olulu

Composed by Pualani Kanaka'ole Kanahele for the ceremonial planting of 'ulu and niu of Kaho'olawe in 1992. The occasion coincided with a unified call for the island to be returned to the Hawaiian people. The mele asks for vigorous growth and propagation, not only for the sprouted coconut and breadfruit, but for the Hawaiian people and culture as well.

Kū ka maka, e Niuela
Mai Kohemālamalama i Kahiki
E ulu 'a'ulunui i ke kohe
A Haumea ma Kanaloa.
Ū! Ā!

Niuela, cause the shoot to sprout
From Kohemālamalama to Kahiki
The 'ulunui shall grow from the loins
Of Haumea at Kanaloa.
Yes! Ah!

7) Eō Keōpūolani Kauhiakama

The next three chants comprise a set of dances performed by Hālau o Kekuli in honor of Kamehameha II, Li'lohi. This mele reveals the royal lineage of his mother, Keōpūolani, and tells of Li'lohi's character, fitness and genealogical connections worthy of a ruling chief.

Eō Keōpūolani Kauhiakama!
'O Kauhiakapu a Kamatalāwai
'O ke 'Umi Kalākaua'ehu a Kama
'O nā ali'i nō ia mai ka hāki
Mai ka pili manawa a Pilanivahine
A ka a kau pē a Lono o Pi'i
Ke ali'i mai ka houpu kaunelawa
'O Kalani mala līl i o lua kāua ē
I nehe kāua lima kā ke aloha
Eha lā loko ke kanaka lā ia
Hakani wale iho nō i ka manawa.
Pulu pau kū'u maka i ka wainaka ē.
Eia a e ē, ho'i ē.
Me ha makamaka lā no ka ua Hilo One
Ka hele nō a kipa i Hanakahi
Kipa aku 'oe, ua hala i Makakalo
Ho'i nō au 'a'ake noho kakali
Eia a e ē, ho'i ē.
Nānā i ka hulikau a ka lehua
I ka lulu'u o nā pua i ka nahele
He wahine kapu ia na ka Pu'ulena
I nā lā i ke kai o Punahoa
Eia a e ē, ho'i ē.
He hoa ia nei o ka nuha ka hewa

O Keōpūolani Kauhiakama, answer to your name!
Sacred is Kauhi of Kamatalāwai
Kalākaua'ehu of Kama
These are chiefs of restrictive kapu
From the time of Pilanivahine
Until the reign of sacred house of Lono of Pilani
The chief from the sacred realm
A chiefly line of ours
Our hands moved searching for love
The native was throbbing inside by him
Leaving emotions awestruck
My eyes drenched with tears.
Here, he is approaching, retreat.
The rain of Hilo One is like a friend
Enroute to visit Hilo Hanakahi
You go and visit, for he has passed Makakalo
I go, I don't sit waiting
He is approaching, retreat.
Observe the profusion of lehua blossoms
Abundant are the flowers in the forest
She is a sacred woman of the Pu'ulena winds
During the days at the sea of Punahoa
He is approaching, retreat.
He is compared to being stubborn and faulty

He hakane 'oe wahi a ka 'olelo
He lola kūia hehepa na ke alii
He alii alo lua i nā pali
Eia a e ē, ho'i e.
Na Liholiho Ekahi, he inoa.

The gossip is that you are worthless
Sluggish and imbecile, this descendent of the chief
A two faced chief when facing obstacles
Here he comes, retreat.
For Liholiho the first, a name song.

8) Ku'u Lani Weliweli

This is a hula noho proclaiming Liholiho's sacred status. Ku'u Lani Weli Weli includes his sister, Nāhi'ena'ena, his parents, Kamehameha and Keōpūolani, and the family's fire kapu.

Ku'u lani weliweli maka'u i ke kapu
ehehe
Pili pū ka hanu loko'a ka moe
I kunia i ke ahi hahana nā moku 'ehehe
O ka moku o ka lani kai loa'a mai
O ka To hou i liko a nōpunopu,
ehehe
Lalapa ho'i ma loko o ka lani kāne
Ke ahi hou a Nāhi'ena ka makua
mai 'oe, 'ehehe
Nā manu a'i noho i ka uka o 'Ola'a
I pu'iva i ka uahi a ka Wahine, 'ehehe
O ka leo wale no ke 'īkeia nei
Nalo ka lehua pua lima iā ia, 'ehehe
Ka 'īhīia i ka 'ula o ka lehua
He inoa no ka ho'ole'a tā Liholiho

My fear-inspiring lord,
he possesses numerous kapu
Hold your breath for he possesses the prostrating kapu
When scorched by the fire, the districts waves hot
For the royal one is in our midst.
For this young one already experiences
maturation
Fire blazing within this royal male
You are the newest fire of Nāhi'ena,
the parent
The birds who share the upland of 'Ola'a
Shocked by the smoke of the Woman
For it is only by voice that we understand
The fifth lehua flower is concealed by him
Stricken with awe by the redness of the lehua
A name song for the praise of Liholiho

9) Te Ha'aha'a Nei Ahahaha

This is a "Mele Mai", composed by Edith Kanaka'ole, which praises the active genitals of Liholiho.

Ke ha'aha'a nei ahahaha
Ke ha'aha'a nei ahahaha
Ke ha'aha'a nei ahahaha
Ke kamahiwa, kamalele, 'ōli'i kapu ē
Lele aku Kamehameha fō, iki ē

Dancing, teasing
Dancing, teasing
Dancing, teasing
A sacred child, a child of godly values
the sacredness is revealed
The young Kamehameha leaps forward

Iki iki mai ka lani lua, kau i ka hano
I ō mai ka lani a pae i ka honua
He 'ula nei ē ehehe ehehe hehene
Kunewa nei ē ehehe ehehe hehene
Pi'i hou a'e ē ehehe ehehe hehene
Hā'ula ihola ē ehehe ehehe hehene
Ke ha'aha'a nei ahahaha
Ke ha'aha'a nei ahahaha
Ke ha'aha'a nei ahahaha
A mamau ana!

He ma'i no Liholiho.

The second chief in line is most honorable
From the royal line to reign over the land
A redness occurs
Now the reeling
Only to rise again
The final slump
Moving lower, teasing
Moving lower, teasing
Moving lower, teasing
Continuous!

A song of praise for Liholiho.

10) Ua Puni Ho'i Nā Moku i Ke Kai

Mele ho'i by Edith Kanaka'ole for the Kamehameha series.

Ua puni ho'i nā moku i ke kai
Ka huahua kai nepepe wai
Au-kā ihola
Au-kā a'ela
Au-kā i uka
Au-kā i kai
I ke ale i
I ke ale moe
I ke ale hāko 'Iko'i lā
Kahiki a lana a kahiki
Iā 'oe e Lono
Iā 'oe e Kū
Iā 'oe e Kāne puni i ka honua
Imaka o Kamehameha
Ua puni ka honua
Ua puni i ke kai
Ua puni e nā lani ē.

He inoa no ka huaka'i hele o Nālani.

The islands are surrounded by the ocean
The sea foam causes water to rise and fall
Outgoing current
Incoming current
Current shoreward
Current seaward
Coming from the eastern swells
Coming from the western swells
In the currents of the agitated waves
In the east the life-giving east
To you Lono
To you Kū
To you Kāne encircle the earth
The watch tower of Kamehameha
The earth is surrounded
By the sea
The royal ones have made a circuit.

A name song for Nālani's journey.

*Chant where dancers leave the audience.



II) Māpu Ka Hanu o Ka Laua'e

This chant is typical of mele komo or formal poetic request for entrance. A gift from Agnes Kauana Kanahole, it is now a mele ka'i pahu for Hālau o Kekuhi.

Māpu ka hanu o ka laua'e
Māpu nō i ka poli o Waialoha
Aloha i ke kapa 'ehu kai
Huki palai, huki lole noe Kahuna
Noe maila ka lehua makanoe
Noe ka lehua makanoe
Noe wiwo'ole i ke amu
Anu i ke aka kipapa ola ē
Ālai i kuilima kanaka o Maunahina ē
E hina nō paha, 'o wau wale nō
E hina nō paha ē kāua ē, i ka 'ahanui ē
Alia lā ē! Wait!
He anu, he amu wale nō ē.

Fragrant is the breath of the laua'e
Fragrant indeed is the blossom of Waialoha
Greeted by the sea mist
Pulling, the fern, the mist, shrouds Kahuna
The lehua makanoe settles gently as mist
Lehua makanoe is covered
Shrouded fearless in the cold
Chilling cold paves the pathway of life
Obstructed by the cluster of Maunahina
Say Hina, it is only I
We go together humbly to the large assembly

It is cold, it is very cold.

12) Lele Ana 'o Ka'ena

This chant describes a scene from a time-honored saga of Pele and Hi'iaka. During Hi'iaka's journey to Kaua'i to fetch Pele's lover, Lohiau, she departs O'ahu from Ka'ena. This song uses numerous metaphors in describing the view from Ka'ena to Kaua'i including the features in and around Ka'ena.

Lele ana 'o Ka'ena
Me he manu lā i ka mālie
Me he kaha na ka 'uwa'u lā
Nā pali 'o Nenele'a
Me he 'upa'i na ke koa'e lā
Ka 'ale i wahō 'o Ka'ēle
Me he kanaka ho'oulu'ū lā i ka mālie
Ka papa kea i ke alo o ka 'alā.
Ua ku'ia e ke kai
A uli, a mono, a 'ula
Ka maka o ka 'alā
E nonoho ana i ke kai o Kāpeku
Kāpeku ka leo o ke kai.
O Ho'otilo ka malama

Ka'ena flies
Like a bird in the calm
Like the soaring 'uwa'u
At the cliffs at Nenele'a
Like the flapping of the koa'e
And the billowing waves of Ka'elewaho
men piled up on the clouds, so calm
The coral flats in the face of dense rock.
Pounded by the sea
Until the dark becomes pink then blush red
Is the face of the black stones
All sitting together at the sea of Kāpeku
Kāpeku is the roar of the sea.
Ho'otilo is the season

Ke kū maila ka pāuli i kai
Ka ho'ailona kai o ka 'aina
A'e kai o Kahulumamu
Kai a moana ka 'aina
Ahuwale ka pae ki'i
Ka pae newenewe
Ka pae manu'u a Kanaloa
A he ho'a, a 'o ia
Ho'ohaehae ana Kalaeokalā'au
I kīhe 'ia e ke kai o Wawahu
Nā 'owaewae pali o Umulau.
Inu aki i ka wai o Kōbeiki i ka pali
I ka pali ka wai
Kau pū me ka lā'au
Ho'ole ke kupa, hūnā i ka wai
'Ehā ka muliwait, wai o Ka'ena
'Ena ihola e ka lā o ka Makali'i
'O'o mai ana ke 'ā me ke kanaka
koa lā
Ma'alo ana i ku'u maka
Me he huaka'i lā o ia kalana pali
Kuamo'o loa, pali o Leihonua
Hiki iho nei nō ka hau'oli
I ka hiki 'ana mai a nei makani
He aha lā ka'u makana?
I ku'u hilahila
'O ka'u wale ihola nō ia, 'o ka leo, ē.
He inoa no Hi'iakaikapoliopele!

The darkness at sea is intensifying
An ocean sign for the land
The rising sea of Kahulumamu
Is the sea that turns the land into the ocean
The row of gods are exposed
Plump, bulging forms
The many forms on the alter of Kanaloa
Companions all
Kalaeokalā'au instigates the movement
To be pushed by the sea of Wawahu
To the grooved cliffs of Umulau.
I drink the dripping water in the cliff of Kōbeiki
In the cliffted walls is the water
Found also upon the trees
The native denies it and hides the water
Ka'ena has four water sources
Abundant during the days of Makali'i
Like an army of warriors, is this large
procession
Marching right before my face
Like a procession of this cliffted land itself
Long is the cliffted ridge of Leihonua
Happiness has just made itself known
Upon the arrival of this wind
What indeed is my gift in return?
In my shame
This is all I have to offer, my voice.

A name song for Hi'iakaikapoliopele.

13) Ku'u Akua i Ka Hale Hau

Hi'iaka and her traveling party bid farewell to O'ahu and their relatives at Kahana Valley, Kauhikeimakaokalani.

Ku'u akua i ka hale hau
Hale kanaka'ole
E noho ana i ke kai 'o Ma'akua
Ālai i ke kī'ohu'ohu ē
Penel wale nō ka iki akua
Auē ku'u akua ē!

My god who dwells in the house of hau
A house not made for man
Situated at the sea of Ma'akua
Hidden by the mist
The gods of lesser status presents themselves
Alas, my god!



14) Mai Kahiki Ka Wahine 'o Pele

Tahiti and Borabora are clearly named in this oli which proclaims that Pele came to Hawai'i from the South Pacific. The chant describes cloud formations that satisfy traditional protocol for declaring godly descent. Kāona used by the poet renders a detailed account of the entire enterprise from its planning stages to the actual departure from Tahiti aboard the canoe Honuaikēa.

Mai Kahiki ka Wahine 'o Pele
Mai ka 'āina i Polapola
Mai ka pūnōhu'ula a Kāne
Mai ke ao lalapa i ka lani
Mai ka 'ōpua lapa i Kahiki
Lapakū i Hawai'i ka wahine 'o Pele
Kalai ka wa'a i Honuaikēa
Kou wa'a e Kamohoali'i
I 'apoia ka moku i pa'a
Ua hoa ka wa'a o ke akua
Ka wa'a o Kānekālaihonua
Holo mai ke au
A'ea'e Pelehonuamea
A'ea'e ka lani 'aipuni a i ka moku
A'ea'e kini a ke akua.
Noho a'e 'o Malau
Ua kātia ka lio o ka wa'a.
Iā wai ka hope ka līu o ka wa'a
E na hoalii, ia Pelehonuamea
A'ea'e ke 'ihoe
O luna o ka wa'a
'O Kū mā läu'a 'o Lono
Noho i ka honua 'āina
Kau aku i ho'olewa moku
Hi'iaka no'eau, he akua
Kū a'e, hele ā noho i ka hale o Pele
Huahu'a'i Kahiki
Lapa uila e Pele
E hua'i ē!

From Kahiki came the Woman Pele
From the land at Borabora
From the red rainbow of Kāne
From the high blazing clouds of the sky
From the flashing billowing cloud at Kahiki
The woman Pele is most active on Hawai'i
The canoe Honuaikēa is carved
It is your canoe, Kamohoali'i
To obtain the chosen island
The canoe of the god was lashed
The canoe of Kānekālaihonua
Sail upon the incoming tide
Aboard is Pelehonuamea
Aboard are the royal ones from around the island
Aboard are the multitudes of deities.
Malau sits
The canoe is emptied of water,
To whom is the skill of the stern of the canoe
My chiefly companions, To Pelehonuamea
Aboard are the paddlers
On the canoe
Kū and Lono came
To reside on the new land
They are placed high upon the land
Skillful Hi'iaka is a god herself
Rise, go and reside in the house of Pele
Kahiki bursts forth
Pele is flashing
Onward!

15) Holo Mai Pele

Pele and her clan travel to Hawai'i and settle comfortably in the eastern most district of the eastern most island in the Hawaiian archipelago, bringing with her the gods of her ancestors and forever making this her home.

Holo mai Pele mai ka hikina
A kau ka wa'a i Mo'okini
Noho i ka ua 'o Kūmalae
Ho'okū Pele mā i ke ki'i
Noho i ke ki'i a Pele mā
A ka pua 'o Ko'i
Eli'eli kau mai e Pele ē!
Kānaenae Pele mā i laila
Ka'i a huaka'i a Pele mā
A ka lae i Leleiwi
Ke honi i ke 'ala o ka hala
O ka lehua o Mokaulele
A ke kui a Pele mā
Eli'eli kau mai e Pele ē!
He kūnana hale ka Pu'ulena
He Hale moe 'o Papalauahi
He hālau nō Kilauea
Hā'ule mai Pele mai Kahiki mai ē
Ka hekili, ka öla'i, ka ua loku
Ka ua paka 'o Ha'iha'ilauākea
Eli'eli kau mai e Pele ē!
Eli'eli kau mai e Pele ē!
He inoa no Hi'iakaipoliopele.

Pele sailed from the east
And the canoe landed at Mo'okini
The rain poured at Kūmalae
Pele and siblings set up the gods
The gods of Pele's clan resided there
Including the clan of carvers known as Ko'i
A profound reverence, Pele!
They offered prayers of thanks and praise
Pele and her clan set off on a journey
Until the point at Leleiwi
Where they could smell the fragrance of hala
And the lehua of Mokaulele
Of which they strung
A profound reverence, Pele!
Pu'ulena had a house site
The sleeping area was Papalauahi
Kilauea was a large hall
Pele began from Kahiki
The thunder, earthquake, the downpour
The raindrops of Ha'iha'ilauākea
A profound reverence, Pele!
A profound reverence, indeed, Pele!
A name song for Hi'iakaipoliopele.



16) Kūnihi Ka'ena

Kūnihi Ka'ena is a beautiful poem in which Hi'iaka reminisces of leeward O'ahu and the winds associated with that area. It describes the intense effects of the sun Ka'ena, Keawa'ula, Ōhikilolo and Wa'anae to Pohākea.

Kūnihi Ka'ena, holo i ka mālie
Wela i ka lā ke alo o ka pali
'Auamo mai i ka lā 'o Kilaeua
Ikiiki i ka lā nā Keawa'ula
Ola i ka makani Kaiāulu, Koholālele
He makani ia no lalo
Haoa ka lā i na Mākua
Lili ka lā i 'Ōhikilolo
Ha'a hula le'a ka lā i ke kula
Ke ha'a 'ana o ka lā i Mākaha
'Oi ka niho o ka lā i Kūmanomano
Ola Kamale i ka huna nā niho
Ola Wa'anae i ka makani Kaiāulu
Ke hoa aku i ka lau o ka niu
Uwē 'o Kānepepūnū i ka wela o ka lā
A laila ku'u ka luhi, ka mālo'elō'e
'Au'au aku i ka wai i Lualualei
Aheape Kona, ahe Ko'olau wahine
Aheape nō i ka lau i ka ilima
Wela i ka lā ka pili i ka umauama
I pu'u Ili'i i kālawalawa i Pahelona
Ā ka pī'ina i Waikonenene
Ho'omaha aku i Kamoa'ula
A ka luna i Pohākea
Kū au nānā i kai o Hilo
Ke ho'omoe a'ela i ke kēhau
O a'u hale lehua i kai o Puna
O a'u hale lehua i kai o Kūkī'i.
He inoa no Hi'iakaikapoliopele.

Vertical is Ka'ena sailing in the calm
The face of the cliff is heated by the sun
Kilauea carries the sun
For the area known as Keawa'ula is stifling in the sun
Saved by the wind Kaiāulu
Koholālele is a wind from below
The sun scorches lands known as Mākua
The sun causes anguish at Ōhikilolo
The sun dances joyfully on the plains
The dancing sun is at Mākaha
The teeth of the sun are sharp at Kūmanomano
Kamale is spared because it is hidden from the teeth
Wa'anae recovers with the wind of Kaiāulu
Which lashes through the coconut leaves
Kānepepūnū cries out in the heat of the day
Then the fatigue and aches are gone
When bathing in the water at Lualualei
The leeward and windward breezes are cool
Breathing on the leaves of the 'ilima
The sun's heat sticks to the chest
Minor discomfort, shifting side to side to Pahelona
Until the top at Waikonenene
Where we rest at Moa'ula
On the heights of Pohākea
I stand looking seaward to Hilo
Laying in the mist
My lehua, laden home by the sea of Puna
My lehua, laden home by the sea of Kūkī'i.
A name song for Hi'iakaikapoliopele.

17) He Mele No Hi'iakaikapoliopele

This is a name song for Hi'iakaikapoliopele. She is honored with the forms of lightning, earthquakes, skirt of fire and is recognized as a favorite of Kāne as well as Pele.

'O Kauilaumimākīhāikalani
'Anapa i ka honua
Naue ka honua
Pa'a mai ka honua
Honua nui a Kāne
'O ka honua a Kapakapaua a Kāne
Moea ka honua nui a Kāne
A ho'olewa ka honua a Kāne
A lewa ka honua a Kāne
A ala aku, a naue ke öla'i
Häku'i ke öla'i, naue ke öla'i
Naue ka honua a Kānepōhaku
Kamohoal'i ke akua i ka lua nei
'O Ka'ulaokeahi lä pili i ka pa'ū
'O Ku'ulei, 'o Kūkaiaka, 'o Leleiaka
'O Ku'ulei 'o Hi'iakaiku'upoli nei lä
'eā lā, 'eā lā, 'eā!
Aloha mai nei nō e!

O great Kauila-flashing-in-the-sky
It flashes on the earth
The earth reverberates
The earth is solid
This great earth of Kāne's
The earth that is Kapakapaua of Kāne
The large earth of Kāne presses forward
The earth of Kāne floats
The earth of Kāne is suspended
It rises, and the earthquake vibrates
It reverberates, it trembles
The earth which is the stone form of Kāne trembles
The god of this pit is Kamohoal'i
The redness of the fire adheres to the skirt
My beloved one, who stands and leaps in the shadows
My favorite one, is Hi'iaka-in-my bosom!

Greetings indeed!

18) Ka 'Au Hula 'Ana o Kalālau

As Hi'iaka and Lohi'au travel to Kilauea to meet Pele, they visit briefly with Lohi'au's former lover, Pele'ula. Lohi'au is faced with a dilemma. He's a grown man now, and his love Pele'ula is but a burden. He has developed a strong affection for his new companion, Hi'iaka. Love can be such a challenge!

Ke hele lä ka 'au hula'ana o Kalālau
Ke po'i lä ke kai o Miloli'i
Ka lā'au ku'i o Makua iki
Lawe i ka haka lä ilot
Makua ketki i ka poli
I ka poli nō ka hoa hele
Kalakala i ke kua ka 'ope'ope aloha
Aua ho'i e!

I venture the cliffs of Kalālau
The ocean crashing, breaking the base of Miloli'i
Climbing the ladder of lesser Makua
The ladder is gone!
I am a grown man now
In my heart there is a place for this new companion
I release the burden of this old love
Oh this love!

19) Nāhi'ena'ena

Nāhi'ena'ena, daughter of Kamehameha and Keōpūolani, is likened to the 'oloa and the process of preparing the 'oloa from bark to fine kapa. This transformation of rough, raw material into a refined product can have many hidden meanings. I'e kuku⁴ are used to accompany this chant.

O kuku 'oloa, o lau 'oloa 'ōhalahala mai i ākea
He kua lā no Kahiki
He 'ula i heia
He māpele i heia 'ia e penei
Ka 'oloa, a he kā 'oloa
He 'oloa Nāhi'ena'ena ma ka 'ōlelo wale ana
E 'oloa aku ana iā ka lani-nui-kua-līholihō
I kāne 'aimoku i luna ka fa 'ea lā
O ka 'oloa ia e kuku nei
O ke kuku pō'ai, ka lani, kuku ke'i
(O ka lani), kua'i ka lani, mau ka honua
Kuka'i ka lani, mau ka honua iā Lani
Lani pipili ha'amomoe le'a.
Pipili ka lani, mau ka honua ia
He lā koli'i nono ka i luna
O ke ka mauna wawā, ke kai wawā
'ōlelo kai i luna, ka leo o ka hekikili kawōwōwō
Ka leo o ka hekikili kawōwō i luna
Ka leo o ka ola'i kawōwōwō
Ka leo o ka ola'i kawōwō i lalo
Ka leo o ka ua huna kawōwōwō
Ka leo o ka ua loku kawōwō i uka
Ka leo o ka pū kani heke'i
Ka leo o ka pololei ka huli kani i uka
Oaku ia i ka maka o Haukuku,
o Haukaka
O ke kakaina o ka niu 'ai ali'i
O ka bohana e pau ai ka li'u lani
O ka lani Kaukeaouli ke kupa nāna e au
O ke au, 'o ke kupalele ka moku
O ke kupalala ka 'aina, 'o ke kupali'i

The kapa beater of the bark that flourishes
A kapa anvil from Kahiki
Strips of breadfruit bark
The Māpele bark prepared in the same manner
The kapa bark and the young shoots
Nāhi'ena'ena is the kapa bark
Transforming ka lani-nui-kua-līholihō
Into the overseer of the fish, turtle
That is the bark which is beaten
Ka lani beats kapa in a circular manner
The chiefs joined together the earth will be perpetuated
This union belongs to both these chiefs
The chiefs sleep together in pleasure
While the chiefs join together the earth abides firm
A hot day, the sun's rays are tremulous over the plains
The mountain noises clash together, the sea noises clash also
The voice of thunder speaks on high
The voice of thunder roars loudly above
The voice of the earthquake rumbles
The voice of the earthquake rumbles below
The voice of the fine rain is increasing
The voice of the heavy rain is roaring in the uplands
The voice of the conch sounds intermittently
The voice of the land shell in the uplands
Peircing the eyes of Haukuku,
of Haukaka
Breaking the coconut for the chief to eat
The bailer that will overcome the chief's leak
The chief Kaukeaouli is the resident who governs
The care of the land throughout the whole island
Of the great land, the small land

O ke kupali'i, kupali'i, kupahēle
kupaha'a, e 'ai 'aina 'o ka lani
O Nāhi'ena'ena, ohulu'u naholo
ke kapu
Otue he kupa kahiko no lālā
He kia'i wai no ka 'ili'i poniponi
ponipua
Nana kū'i, e kū'i nanau
E kū'i nanau, e nanau, e nanau
Naunau, holoholo, o holoholo
Ou holoholo ka lani
He kuku keke, kuku ke ko'i keke
Holo i ke kupa keke, kukeke,
ili kapa keke e ka lani
Kuku kapa, ua keke,
he lani kuku kapa keke
Ke kahele, ke oe, ke moe, ke ka'ikai
O Nāhi'ena'ena ke kupa nāna e 'ai
ka moku

Of the little, small, humble one; ka lani
possesses the land
Of Nāhi'ena'ena, demanding is her
naholo kapu
Otue was an ancient descendant of that place.
A guard of the water of the smooth
black pebbles
She shall attach [the kapa], she shall bite [the thread]
She shall stitch, bite, bite
Bite, sew, sew, sew together
Let ka lani run
The adze beats
Free ka lani to the resident whose is the
land of beating kapa
The sound of beating kapa,
a chief beating kapa
Go carefully, whistle, lie down, lift up
Nāhi'ena'ena is the one who will
consume the land.

Wooden kapa beater

20) Eō, E Kalawai'ahōlonaikekaiomanāka'a

Pelehouamea Suganuma, daughter of Mary Kawena Pukui noted scholar, author and chanter, shared this mele inoa with the Kanaka'ole family about their common ancestors of Ka'u. The Kanaka'ole clan of Ka'u also included the Kawehu family for whom this mele inoa was composed. This mele inoa reveals the practice of naming a child after a memorable occasion, in this case an important fishing expedition.

Eō, e Kalawai'ahōlonaikekaiomanāka'a
Kū mai 'o Kanaka'ole ka mea iā ia ka
uhā'i o ka 'ilei
E ho'omākau kākou kau ka lā wela
'O Waiwā'ole, 'o Alaka'i hūtukelupuai
'O Kekipiohaifilani kua ka iako
'O Waitū 'o Lumahīhei kai ka'a moe
hanuna ka maka o ka i'a
Pupuhī kūkūt ahuwale ka i'a ka hōlona
Kāheia akiu ua lawai'a nui nei, e ke
keiki, pehea au pae a'e i uka
Pākahi, pāhua, pākolu
Kū mai 'o Kūpele ka mea ia ke ka'i
o ka 'aha
'O Huliohokamanomano ke ka ika'i
o ka ipu

'O Kaluakapukane he 'ole'ole
Kū mai ka hikiwae Keawehano
Lobē akula ka uka o Ma'ulukua i ka rā
a ka hōlona
Ninau aku 'o Pamahoia iā Kanaka'ole
Ua hei 'oukou i ka fā
Ae, ua hei mākou i ka fā, ho'okahi lau
me nā ha'au keu 'ehua
Kū mai 'o Kahalekuakamanomano
Ka hihipe'a ka'imi pono o nā
kaikoua ana
'A'ohē nō he mamo ka lawai'a nui he
mamo mahi'ai
I mahi i ka lā me ka ua

Respond, o Kalawai'ahōlona at the sea of Manāka'a
Kanaka'ole stands, he is the one who
bends the 'ilei branch
Make ready while the sun shines above
Wahwā'ole, Alaka'i hūtukelupuai, Kekipiohaifilani
Will carry the outrigger
While Waitū and Lumahīhei observe
whether the fish sleep
Blow the kukui nut so the fish will be seen
The great fisherman cries out, my boy,
how so you come ashore
Land some ashore by ones, twos, and threes
Kūpele (Kūpule) stands, he is the holder
of the guide line
'O Huliohokamanomano is the keeper of
the fishing container

Kaluakapukane the talkative (female)
Keawehano arrives quickly the speedy one takes station
Those of the upland Ma'ulukua heard of
the unskilled one
Pamahoia asked Kanaka'ole
Did you catch any fish
Yes, we caught four hundred and
several times forty
O Kahalekuakamanomano stands forth
Very eager to learn of the success of her
senior relatives
Who are not descendants of fishermen
but of those farmers
Who farm through sunshine and rain

Kuhihewa ua lawai'a nui nei
I'o ka lae, mino nō ka papalina
Ke holo ala i ke 'ā ka maka pouli o
ku'u āina
I ke kai 'o Waihū
Uhu mai ka lawai'a keiki a Kaha'īmoku
Ninau aku, pehea ka i'a o Manāka'a
Hō'ole nō ua lawai'a nui nei, 'a'ole i'a
he i'a na ka hōlona
'A'ohē nō he lawai'a mui, i 'ole ka 'ai i ka
piipi, i ka hulalili
Piha ka waha o ka lawai'a nui nei
'O ka inoa pākolu kēia o nā mākua o'u
I hea aku ai i ku'u keiki
'O Kalawai'ahōlona ka inoa ko ia nei
'O Huli he makua, 'o Mama he makua
Eō à

He inoa no
Kalawai'ahōlonaikekaiomanāka'a

There is an erroneous supposition about the fisherman
With the elderly, mature face
Who is hastening over the blackened
rock of my homeland
At the sea of Waihū
The sons of Kaha'īmoku are headstrong
Asking how is the fish of Manāka'a
The fishermen denied, replied that there
was only fish for the unskilled
There are no fishermen who have not
eaten sea shells and sea cucumber
These filled the mouth of the great fishermen
These are the names of my three uncles
Which I have given to my child
The Unskilled fisherman is her name
Huli is a parent, Mama is a parent
Answer to your name

A name song for
Kalawai'ahōlonaikekaiomanāka'a

"Uwolani" is meant to both entertain and inform. It should be understood, however, that the Kumu Hula and dancers of Hālau o Kekuhi are stewards of a deeply rooted tradition that involves lifelong learning. Proper documentation of this recording would require volumes of text, and even then it could not completely explain the dynamics of traditional Hawaiian music and literature.

English translations provided here are literal and do not attempt to explain the kaona (hidden meaning), which in most cases is several layers deep. Those unfamiliar with Hawai'i's oral tradition may find more questions than answers in these liner notes and are encouraged to continue their journey of learning and discovery.

Nā Kumu Hula

Pualani Kanaka'ole-Kanahele

Nālani Kanaka'ole

Nā 'Alaka'i

Punahele Lerma, Heanu Weller, Kika Nohara

Kau'i Enoka, Huihuināmakali'i Kanahele Mossman

Kekuhikuhipu'uoneonāall'iokohala Kanahele-Frias

Hālau o Kekuhi

Mamo Brown, Olipua Kalkalna, Kaipo Frias

Keala Pitoy, Hokulani Kaikaina, Pūnōhu'ula Zane

Kauamakanī Elia, Kaumakalwa Santiago, Pūnāwai Rice

Kūha'oimaikalani Zane, Ulumauahi Santiago, Kaullanui Santiago

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Hawaiian birds on "Kau Ka Hall'a" recorded at Kakauale'a forest by Kit Ebersbach. Actual eruption sounds of Kilauea volcano's Pu'u 'O'o vent used on "He Kau No Hi'laka" courtesy of Ken Hon, Cheryl Hon, John Kjargaard and Ka'io Productions Inc.

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1330 Ala Moana Blvd., Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814 Toll Free: 800.882.7088 Ph: 808.597.1888 Fax: 808.597.1151

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