

E Hula Kākou

Randy Kamuela Fong
(Hawaiian Studies Institute, The Kamehameha Schools, 1984)



1. **He aha kēlā me nā hulu?** *What is that thing with feathers?*
Ho‘olohe i ke kani kani mai. *Listen to the sound it makes.*
He aha kēlā me nā hulu? *What is that thing with feathers?*
Ho‘olohe i ke kani kani mai. *Listen to the sound it makes.*
‘Ulī‘ulī, ‘Ulī‘ulī *It's an ‘uli‘ulī, an ‘uli‘ulī*
Mākaukau? Ae! *Ready? Yes!*
E hula kākou! *Let's all hula!*



2. **He aha kēlā mai ka ‘ohe?** *What is that thing made from bamboo?*
Ho‘olohe i ke kani kani mai *Listen to the sound it makes.*
He aha kēlā mai ka ‘ohe? *What is that thing made from bamboo?*
Ho‘olohe i ke kani kani mai *Listen to the sound it makes.*
Pū‘ili. Pū‘ili, *It's a split bamboo, split bamboo*
Mākaukau? Ae! *Ready? Yes!*
E hula kākou! *Let's all hula*

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3. **He aha kēlā mea poepoe?** *What is that round thing?*
Ho'olohe i ke kani kani mai. *Listen to the sound it makes.*
He aha kēlā mea poepoe? *What is that round thing?*
Ho'olohe i ke kani kani mai. *Listen to the sound it makes.*
Ipu heke 'ole. Ipu heke 'ole. *Dancing gourd, dancing gourd*
Mākaukau? Ae! *Ready? Yes!*
E hula kākou! *Let's all hula!*



4. **He aha kēlā mau lā'au** *What are those wooden things?*
Ho'olohe i ke kani kani mai *Listen to the sound they make.*
He aha kēlā mau lā'au *What are those wooden things?*
Ho'olohe i ke kani kani mai *Listen to the sound they make.*
Kāla'au. Kāla'au. *Wooden sticks, wooden sticks*
Mākaukau? Ae! *Ready? Yes!*
E hula kākou! *Let's all hula*

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5. **He aha kēlā mea ho‘okani?** *What are those sound-making things?*
Ho‘olohe i ke kani kani mai. *Listen to the sound they make.*
He aha kēlā mea ho‘okani? *What are those sound-making things?*
Ho‘olohe i ke kani kani mai *Listen to the sound they make.*
Mea ho‘okani, mea ho‘okani. *Sound making things*
Mākaukau? Ae! *Ready? Yes!*
E hula kākou! *Let's all hula*

This is a wonderful song for the little ones to learn the proper technique for the basic *ki‘ipā*, or sound pattern, of each instrument. It employs the single *‘ulī‘ulī*, single *pū‘ili*, dancing *ipu* (rather than the *ipu heke*, or chanting *ipu*), and a pair of short *kāla‘au*.

The hula babies especially like the final verse when they can choose their favorite instrument to play.



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In the Hawaiian language “**He aha**” ask the question:
“what is...?”

Our song ask the question “**He aha....**” for each of the hula implements we use.

He aha kēlā me nā hulu?

What is that with the feathers?

‘uli ‘uli

‘uli‘uli – feathered gourd

He aha kēlā mai ka ‘ohe?

What is that made from bamboo?

pū‘ili

pū‘ili – spit bamboo

He aha kēlā mea poepoe?

What is that round thing?

ipu heke ‘ole

ipu – dancing gourd

He aha kēlā mau lā‘au?

What are those wooden things?

kāla‘au

kāla‘au – pair of wooden sticks)

He aha kēlā mea ho‘okani?

What are those things that make sound? Sound making things

mea ho‘okani

Then we are invited to listen to the sound each instrument produces.

“Ho‘olohe i ke kani kani mai.” (Listen to the sound being made)
Each instrument is then named in its turn. After which everyone is invited to dance using the hula implement indicated.

“E hula kākou!”

(Let’s all dance the hula!)

On the last verse everyone is invited to choose their favorite hula implement so that all of the hula instruments can sound together.

Each of the hula implements has it’s own basic sound pattern or “Ki‘ipā.”

“Ki‘ipā” is the Hawaiian term used to indicate the unique sound pattern for each instrument, as well as the method of producing that unique sound.

“E Hula Kākou!”

Let’s all dance!

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1. (Extend 'ulī'ulī in front w/R, cradle in L-palm)
He aha kēlā me nā hulu? Ho'olohe i ke

(tap 'uli'ulī into L-palm 3X)
kani kani mai.

(Extend 'ulī'ulī in front w/R, cradle with L-palm)
He aha kēlā me nā hulu? Ho'olohe i ke

(tap 'uli'ulī into L-palm 3X)
kani kani mai.

(show instrument R & L & R & L) (dancer answers) (kumu)
'Ūlī'ūlī. 'Ūlī'ulī Mākaukau? Ae! E Hula kākou!

(Basic Ki'ipa 8X) (after repeat pick up pū'ili & cradle in L-hd in front)

2. (Hold instrument w/R in front, extended, pū'ili resting in L-palm)
He aha kēlā mai ka 'ohe? Ho'olohe i ke

(tap pū'ili 3X into L-palm)
kani kani mai.

(Hold instrument w/R in front, extended, pū'ili resting in L-palm)
He aha kēlā mai ka 'ohe? Ho'olohe i ke

(tap pū'ili 3X into L-palm)
kani kani mai.

(display pū'ili R & L & R & L) (dancer answers) (kumu)
Pū'ili. Pū'ili Mākaukau? Ae! E Hula kākou!

(Basic Ki'ipa 8X) (after repeat pick up ipu)

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- (extend ipu in front)
3. He aha kēlā mea poepoe? Ho'olohe i ke
- (slap ipu 3X with Rt-hand)
kani kani mai.
- (extend ipu in front)
He aha kēlā mea poepoe? Ho'olohe i ke
- (slap ipu 3X with Rt-hand)
kani kani mai.
- (extend ipu in front.....) (student reponds) (kumu)
Ipu heke 'ole. Ipu heke 'ole. Mākaukau? Ae! E Hula kākou!

(Basic ki'ipa 8X) (after repeat, pick up short kāla'au)

- (extend kāla'au in front crossed.....)
4. He aha kēlā mau la'au? Ho'olohe i ke
- (tap right on top of left 3X)
kani kani mai
- (extend kāla'au in front crossed.....)
He aha kēlā mau la'au? Ho'olohe i ke
- (tap right on top of left 3X)
kani kani mai
- (display instrument R – L – R – L) (student respond) (kumu)
Kā la'au. Kā la'au, Mākaukau? Ae! E Hula kākou!

(Basic ki'ipa 8X) (After repeat, student can choose their favorite instrument to play using it's own ki'ipā or basic sound pattern)

(Each dancer chooses the hula implement of their choice and follows that basic ki'ipā during the appropriate time.)

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5. He aha kēlā mea ho'okani?

Ho'olohe i ke kani kani mai.

He aha kēlā mea ho'okani?

Ho'olohe i ke kani kani mai.

Mea ho'okani. Mea ho'okani.

Mākaukau? Ae!

E hula kākou!

End by extending hula instrument in front



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'Ukulele Chords for all verses:

Intro: G7 -four counts & C -four counts – repeat

1. (C) He aha kēlā (F) (C) me nā hulu? _____

(C) Ho'olohe i ke (G7) (C) kani kani mai.

(C) He aha kēlā (F) (C) me nā hulu?

(C) Ho'olohe i ke (G7) (C) kani kani mai.

(C) 'Ūli'ūli. (F) (C) 'Ūli'ūli.

(C) *one strum leader asks and wait for reponse...*
Mākaukau?

(dancers respond) (G7) (C)
Ae! E Hula kākou.

G7 four counts & C -four counts – repeat cycle for total of 8-cycles
between verses.