

Kananaka

‘O ka pā mai a ka Ma‘a‘a *The Ma‘a‘a wind blows gently*
Halihali mai ana la i ke ‘ala, *Carrying to us the fragrance*
Ke ‘ala onaona o ka līpoa, *The sweet fraagrance of līpoa*
Hana ‘oe a kani pono, *Gather until you are satisfied*
Hana ‘oe a kani pono.

HUI:

Nani wale ia pu‘eone *The sandbar is so beautiful*
I ka nalu he‘e mai a‘o Kananaka *With waves on which Kananaka rides*
Kahi a mākou a‘e he‘e ai *A place for us to frolic*
I ka ‘ehuehu o ke kai *In the Ocean’s spray*
I ka ‘ehuehu o ke kai

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‘O ka mahina hiki aloalo *The moon is here with us*
Ho‘ola‘ila‘i ana la i nā pali *Resting on the cliffs*
Pōhina wehiwehi i ke onaona, *Adorned in its‘ silvery beauty*
Koni mā‘e‘ele i ke kino *Our bodies tingle with delight*
Koni mā‘e‘ele i ke kino

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Kāhea: (hds in hula position on Rt)
Ae, Kananaka.....

1.

(2 hd scoop p/u from low Rt to hi-R. puff 4 X coming to self)

'O ka pā mai **a ka Ma'a'a** *The Ma'a'a wind blows*
lean body forward slightly Rt lean body back and slightly left

(2 hd scoop p/u from low L to hi-L. puff 4 X coming to self)

Halihali mai ana **la i ke 'ala** *Bringing the scent*
lean body forward slightly L lean body back and slightly right

(2 hds @ nose wave 2X) (2 hds slap thighs, then 2 hds upside down pua in front of knees)

Ke 'ala onaona **o ka lipoa** *The sweet scent of lipoa*
sway body L - R

(2 hds slap thigh 2 X)

(snap - snap fingers)

Hana 'oe **a kani** **pono** *You can gather them to your contentment*
ami 4 X 'akau

2 hds slap thigh 2X)

(snap - snap fingers)

Hana 'oe **a kani** **pono** *You can gather them to your contentment*
ami 4 X 'akau

Hui.

(2 hds reach out and form circle in front p/l & rock R-L-R-L)

Nani wale **ia pu'eone** *Truly beautiful are these sandbars*
lean forward then rock R-L-R-L

(2 hds scoop out low front p/u to either shldr) (wave hds above shdrs 4X looking R-L-R-L)

I ka nalu he'e mai **a'o Kananaka** *In the gliding surf of Kananaka*
lean forward and up on knees turn torso R-L-R-L

(2 hds reach out R-p/u & to self)(reverse) (2 hds up & "dive" in)

Kahi a mākou **a'e he'e ai** *Where we go to glide*
forward/back R then forward back L lean back, then come up & dive in front

2 hds reach hi-R & puff to self 2X slowly, then coming to self puff 3X faster)

I ka 'ehuehu o ke **kai** *In the spray of the sea*
lean back left

2 hds reach hi-L & puff to self 2X slowly, then coming to self puff 3X faster)

I ka 'ehuehu o ke **kai** *In the spray of the sea*
lean back right

2.

(2 hds scoop from low right,p/u lifting moon to hi-R & hold there)

'O ka mahina **hiki aloalo** *The moon that rises slowly and quietly*
lean forward Rthen back toward L

(2 hds wave softly @ shldr 4X turning head R-L-R-L-)

Ho'ola'ila'i ana la **i nā pali** *Is serenely floating along the cliffs*
turn torso R.....L.....R.....L

(2 hds wave @ eyes 2X)

(2 hds wave @ nose 2X)

Pōhina wehi wehi **i ke onaona** *Adorned in a silvery sheen so*
fragrant
rock torso R.....L.....R.....L

(2 hds playfully lift skirt on R – L then R-L-R)

Koni mā'e'ele i **ke kino** *Numbly thrilling the body*
turn torso R.....L.....R.....L.....R

(2 hds playfully lift skirt on L – R then L-R-L)

Koni mā'e'ele i **ke kino** *Numbly thrilling the body*

Kananaka

turn torso L.....R.....L....R....L

(Repeat Hui then "He Inoa no Kananaka" with hands extended together in front.)

Kananaka is said to be a mermaid that lived in the sea outside of Lahaina on the island of Maui. The Ma'a'a is the name of a wind at Lahaina. The *lipoa* is a kind of *limu* (seaweed) with a strong taste and aroma. Usually, the *lipoa* was chopped and mixed with other kinds of seaweed for eating.

The composer of this old favorite *mele* (song) is not known. In the old days, this was danced as a hula *kuhilima* (a sitting gesturing dance) with no musical instruments. A *kāhea* (call), "Ae Kananaka" was given before the dance and a *Kāhea* "He inoa no Kananaka" (a name song for Kananaka) was given after the dance.

Ma'a'a – name of a famous wind associated with Lahaina, Maui

Lipoa – Bladelike, branched, brown seaweed

Kani – 3rd definition: to satisfy a need, particularly thirst

Pono - 2nd definition; completely, much

Pu'eone - Sand dune, sand bar

Ehuehu - Spray, foam, mist

Aloalo – redublication of alo; Front, face, presence

Pōhina - Gray, misty, jfoggy, dimly visible, hazy

Koni - to throb, pulsate, tingle, beat; to flutter, as the throbbing ache.

Mā'e'ele – Numb, as a foot that has "gone to sleep"; numb with cold or deeply moved by love.

(This is my interpretation of the following lines which differs from the one given in most texts. The translation given is literal – I consider this the kaona.

‘O ka mahina i ke aloalo The moon shines on our front bodies

Ho‘ola‘ila‘i ana iā nā pali - Pleasingly shining on our straight backs

I consider this to be the kaona of these two lines...the moon is lighting up the glistening bodies of the topless mermaids, and highlighting their lovely, straight backs. These phrases are quite common in Hawaiian poetry. The Hawaiians admired a nice perky bosom and good posture.)