

Wahine 'Ilikea

Dennis Kamakahi

Cho: (pua 2 hds Rt) (pua 2 hds L) (sea dip 2X R & L) (L-hi, R-open reverse)
Pua kalaunu ma ke kai o Honouliwai
sway R-L dn/up V-R & V-L 8X V-R & L K-R & K-L

(L-hand down body)(R-out, L-up arm 'skin') (roll @ heart) (R-up, L-open)
Wahine 'ilikea i ka poli o Moloka'i
back V-R V-L turning to front V-R turning V-L

(R-arm across chest, then L, R, L)
No ka heke e ~ e
walk sway @ island facing L, back, Rt & front, then ami kūkū 2X)

(2hds out & to face,p/o) (soft clap 'indeed') (waterfall, hi-L dn) (push up Mt to R)
1. Nani wale nō ka wailele o uka
lele uehe R V-L at angle bk V-R V-L facing Rt

(waterfall from L) (waterfall from Rt) (waterfall from L)
'O Hina, 'O Hāhā, 'O Mo'oloa
facing R, bk V-R - (pivot) facing L, bk V-L (pivot) facing R, bk V-R 8X

(small wave L & R low p/d) (L-hd hold up 3 fingers) (Hds out & sweep up & around)
Nā wai 'ekolu i ka uluwehiwehi
walk sway frwd L & R point L-foot 'uehe L-R-L-R

(R-up, L-open) (L-up, R-open) (2 hds low cntr and out slightly)
'O Kamalo i ka mālie
K-L K-R step bk on Left

.....Repeat Chorus.....

2. (2hds out & to face,p/o) (soft clap 'indeed') (open Rt hand low,..... then L)
Nani wale nō ka 'āina Hālawā
lele uehe R V-L K-R K-L

(2 hds house) (beckon from R-L-R-L-R & open w/Rt,p/u, L by chest)
Home ho'okipa a ka malihini
lele uehe -R step bk L - R - L - R - L -hold & point Rt toe

(2 hds front, cntr/out) (2 hds hi, L-higher, R-lower)(mist from L) (2 hds hi R-L)
'Aina uluwehi i ka noe ahiahi
V-R spinning V-L V-R V-L

(2 hds beckon out & to self) (wind L-R-L) (L-up, R-open & reverse)
Ua lawe mai e ka makani o Holua
V-R V-L K-R & K-L

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Hui: Pua Kalaunu, ma ke kai
O Honouliwai
Wahine 'Ilikea
I ka poli o Moloka'i
No ka heke...

*Crown Flower, by the sea
At Honouliwai
Light skinned woman
In the bosom of Moloka'i
You're the best!*

- 1.. Nani wale nō ka wailele o uka *Beautiful indeed are the waterfalls of the uplands*
'O Hina, 'o Hāhā, 'o Mo'oloa *(Their names are) Hina, Hāhā and Mo'oloa*
Nā wai 'ekolu i ka uluwehiwehi *The three waters in the lush verdant forest*
'O Kamalō i ka mālie *Of Kamalō in the calm*

Hui: Pua Kalaunu, ma ke kai
O Honouliwai
Wahine 'Ilikea
I ka poli o Moloka'i
No ka heke...

*Crown Flower, by the sea
At Honouliwai
Light skinned woman
In the bosom of Moloka'i
You're the best!*

2. Nani wale nō ka 'āina Halawa *Beautiful indeed is the land of Hālawā*
Home ho'okipa a ka malihini *Home that welcomes the visitor*
'Āina uluwehi i ka noe ahiahi *Beautiful land in the evening mist*
Ua lawe mai e ka makani o Holua *Carried on the winds from Holua*

Hui: Pua Kalaunu, ma ke kai
O Honouliwai
Wahine 'Ilikea
I ka poli o Moloka'i
No ka heke...

*Crown Flower, by the sea
At Honouliwai
Light skinned woman
In the bosom of Moloka'i
You're the best!*

The story of this song as told to me was that the composer, Dennis Kamakahi, wrote this song honoring his grandmother. My teacher said that the grandmother was very fair skinned and lived at Honouliwai in Moloka'i. She had a special fondness for the crown flower which she grew in her yard. Each evening the grandmother would watch a white mist roll in from Maui and embrace the peaks of Kamakou behind her home.

One day Dennis was driving from Halawa Valley to return to Kauanakakai, as he got to Kamalō this white mist that had covered Kamakou parted to reveal 11 waterfalls cascading down the mountains face. It is rare to see that many waterfalls, but the three that are mentioned in the song are almost always visible from Kamalō pier.

In the composers words he said: "The words began to flow in my mind. The white mist was like a fair-skinned woman revealing herself to her lover (me). So this song is not about a woman per se, it is about the white mist compared to a woman."

Some years later the composer's granddaughter was born and he gave her this name as a part of her Hawaiian name: "Hina'ea-kawahine-'ilikea-o-ka-lani-kua-ka'a." Thus this mele became her mele inoa – her name song.

The second verse pays tribute to Moloka'i's most famous valley, Halawa, and it's wind blowing from Holua area. One of the important function of Hawaiian music is to paint a word picture of places we may never be privileged to see. Equally important is recording the wind names or the rain names of an area. In this case preserving in our minds-eye the white mist rolling in from Maui and covering the mountains of Moloka'i each evening.