

Hāli'ilua

by Albert Nahale'a



G C
Aloha kahi wai a'ō / Hāli'ilua lā

G
Lana mālie

D
'O ke one kaulana o Keōua lā,

A D G
Me ka 'ihi kapu

Kapukapu nā maka a'ō ka 'ōpua lā
Ke 'ike aku
Ka 'anapa i ka luna o Ka'awaloa lā
Maoli pua

He pua nani 'oe a he mea laha 'ole
lā

Na ka mākua
A he lei 'a 'i, na ke kūpuna lā
He mea milimili

Ki'ina ko lei lehua i 'Ōla'a lā
Lei 'ia mai
I 'ohu no ka wahine e walea ai lā
Me 'ano'i pua

Mahalo aku wau lā i ka nani lā
Mau mea ho'ohihi
Ka'onohiokalā mālamalama lā
Kau kehakeha

'O ke kō a ka hau anu o Mā'ihī lā
'Au i ke kai
Kaomi i ka 'ili o ke kamahēle lā
Me ka 'eha koni

Ha'ina ko lei lehua i 'Ōla'a lā
Lei 'ia mai
Ka'onohiokalā, mālamalama lā
Kau kehakeha

Beloved, the water of Hāli'ilua
Gently flowing
Famous, the sands of Keōua
With the sacred kapu

The cloud banks are
Seen with new reverence
Sparkling on Ka'awaloa heights
The native blossom

You are a beautiful blossom
A rare thing of her parents
A neck wreath of her ancestors
One to be cherished

Go and get your lehua lei at 'Ōla'a
Wear it as
An adornment for a woman to enjoy
Like a precious flower

I admire the beauty of
Delightful things
Ka'onohiokalā, radiant with pride
High above all

The cold breeze of Mā'ihī
Moving out to sea
Pressing the skin of the favored child
Stinging

The refrain of your lehua lei at 'Ōla'a
Now worn
Ka'onohiokalā, radiant with pride
High above all

Source: Composed for Hannah Parish of Kona, on the occasion of her wedding. Hāli'ilua was the name of a spring and bathing pool at Kealakekua, Hawai'i, a favorite of Queen Kapi'olani. The cliffs above Kealakekua in Ka'awaloa are known as "Sacred Cliffs of Keōua", the ancient Hawaiian chief. 4th verse - the lehua lei at 'Ōla'a, is the bridegroom. 5th verse - Ka'onohiokalā (the eyeball of the sun), is the bride's Hawaiian name. 6th verse - Hau is the name of a cool and gentle breeze in the Mā'ihī area. Translated by Kanani Mana