

Hilo Hula

Joe Kalima



F F7

Kaulana mai nei 'o Hilo 'eā

Bb F

Ka ua Kanilehua 'eā

D7 G7

Ka ua ho 'opulu 'ili 'eā

C7 F

Ka 'ili o ka malihini 'eā

Nani wale ho' i ka 'ikena 'eā

Ka nani o Waiākea 'eā

Ka wai o Waiolama 'eā

Mālamalama Hawai'i 'eā

Kaulana ho' i Mokuola 'eā

He moku au i ke kai 'eā

E ho' opulu 'ili nei 'eā

Ka hunehune kai 'eā

Lei ana i ka lei nani 'eā

Ka pua o ka lehua 'eā

Ha'ina mai ka puana 'eā

No ka ua Kanilehua 'eā

Famous is Hilo

And it's rain called Kanilehua

Rain that wets one's skin

Especially those of the newcomers

Lovely is the scenery

And beauty of Waiākea

The water of Waiolama

Brightens Hawai'i (the island)

Situated here is Mokuola

An island set apart in the sea

Drenching the skin

The mist of the sea

Wear the lei of loveliness

The blossom of the red lehua

Tell the refrain

The rain called Kanilehua

Notes: Kanilehua is the misty rain of Hilo that gives drink to the lehua blossoms. Verse #2, Waiākea or broad waters, was the home of 'Ulu, a legendary man who died of starvation and was buried near a spring. The next morning, an 'ulu (breadfruit) tree, laden with fruit, marked his grave and put an end to the famine. Verse #3, Mokuola was the son of 'Ulu and the name of an island in Hilo bay. There was a spring on the island with water that had healing qualities. The old Hawaiians would swim to the island and hide the umbilical cords of infants in the crevices of a flat stone called Papa o Hina. Many Hawaiians today honor this tradition of hiding umbilical cords from rodents, believing it saves the child