

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

Source: 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 from becoming a thief. Translated by Mary Pukui