

Hālau Pu‘uloa (Mele Oli)

Hālau Pu‘uloa he awa lau no ‘Ewa	Expansive is Pu‘uloa a harbor for ‘Ewa
He awa lau moana na ke Kēhau	An extensive harbor belonging to the Kēhau breeze
He kī‘owai lua he muliwai, no ‘Ewa	An abundant, overflowing estuary for ‘Ewa
No ua ‘āina ka i‘a hāmau leo	To this ‘āina belongs the i‘a that silences voices
E hāmau ana ka leo o ke kānaka	The voices of people will be silenced
‘O pānea mai auane‘i hilahila	Yet, a response is always given lest there be shame
Ke‘eo ua i‘a la iloko o ke kai	The aforementioned i‘a fills the sea
‘O ke kai puakai ‘ula ai ke kai o Kuhia – e	from the sacred reddish sea to the sea of Kuhia
He mai, he mai	Welcome, welcome
Eia nō mākou nei.	Here we are.

Translator’s Note: Though this translation includes diacritical markings, the transcription of this mele imposes no use of diacritical markings and represents the mele as it is inscribed on the original document. The lack of inclusion of diacritical markings in the transcription is also intended to allow for multiple interpretations of this mele that may extend beyond the translation that is offered here.

From the Bishop Museum Archives, MS Case 4 M61 Pages 94 to 95
Attributed to Moekali, Date Unknown

Bibliography

¹ The original collection of mele within which this mele was found must be examined again to verify the date that this mele may have been published.

² Pukui and Elbert, *Hawaiian Dictionary*, 142.: Pukui defines kēhau as dew, mist, or dewdrop and also notes that it is a gentle land breeze of O‘ahu and other islands. The word kēhau is also found in the ‘ili name Hanakēhau along the Southeastern border of the Waiawa ahupua‘a as found on Registered Maps and documents from the Mahele, the process for privatizing land in Hawai‘i beginning in 1848.

³ Nākoa, *Lei Momi o ‘Ewa*, 20–23.: The “i‘a hāmau leo” refer to a specific oyster found in ‘Ewa, especially in the Mānana ahupua‘a. These oysters were prized more for their meat than for their pearls from which the contemporary name “Pearl City” has been derived.

⁴ Pukui and Elbert, *Hawaiian Dictionary*, 11.: Land, earth. The word ‘āina may refer generically to any portion of earth, but is also used to refer to specific sections of land that may be divided and subdivided into districts, towns, villages, etc. The word is not exclusive to terrestrial locations and may also apply to sections of sea or fresh water. Due to its definitions that include land and water resources, the word ‘āina remains untranslated here to avoid excluding any resources that may be defined through this word.

⁵ Pukui and Elbert, *Hawaiian Dictionary*, 93.: The word i‘a remains untranslated here as it defines not only fish, but marine animals of any sort, including oysters such as those referred to as the “i‘a hāmau leo” of ‘Ewa.

⁶ Manu, *Keaomelemele*; He Moololo Kaa No Keaomelemele, 161.: The Mo‘olelo of Keaomelemele contains more info on these famous oysters of ‘Ewa for which the Mo‘o Akua Kānekua‘ana is the guardian of.

⁷ It may be possible that “puakai ula” could be a poetic reference for the Easternmost loch of Ke Awalau o Pu‘uloa, but more research must be done to verify this.

⁸ Sterling and Summers, *Sites of Oahu*, 17–18.: Kuhia is the name of one of the retainers of the Akua manō Ka‘ahupāhau. Two ‘ili in Waiawa share this name: Kuhialoko and Kuhiawaho. These names are found on maps and documents from the Mahele. Kuhiawaho is directly adjacent to the Westernmost loch of Pu‘uloa.

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