

# Eia Moloka'i Nui A Hina

Eia Moloka'i nui a Hina  
 Me Lāna'i a **Kaulahea**  
 E lawe mai i ka i'a a Kalani  
 I ka honu ne'e ho'i o Polihua  
 Me ke aku ho'i o Kaunolū  
 Ka pua o ke **i'i** ko Moloka'i  
 'O ka **Leleaka** ka Makali'i  
 A he i'a nui i ka pawa o ke ao  
 He i'a e lawa 'ai ka 'aha'aina  
 O ka hū po'e nui maka'āinana  
 Ua hiki mai nei ka Iubilē  
 Nou, e ka Wohi Kūkahi o ka Moku

## Great Moloka'i of Hina; A Royal Jubilee Mele

Behold Great Moloka'i of Hina  
 With Lāna'i of Kaulahea (Kū'ulahe'a? <sup>19</sup>)  
 Bring fish to the King  
 With the turtle of Polihua slowly wending its way  
 hence  
 With the (swift) aku of Kaunolū  
 And with the young fish-fry from Moloka'i  
 The Milky Way, the Makali'i constellation,  
 The many fish of the dark before daybreak  
 Let there be fish enough to eat at the banquet  
 Of the great mass of citizens.  
 The Jubilee has arrived  
 For you, O wohi chief of the island.

*(Red items on the left were difficult to read from the available newspaper pdf)*

*(translation by R. Mondoy)*

Growing up on Moloka'i, it's impossible not seeing Lāna'i in your memory of landscapes. As you drive down to Kaunakakai, there it looms before you across the Kalohi channel, itself one of the world's roughest and enigmatic waterways. This chant, in which both Lāna'i and Moloka'i are called upon, is one of fifteen thematically related Mele Jubilee commemorating Kalākaua's royal jubilee celebration composed by Alaumoe (a pseudonym) and printed in *Ka Nupepa Elele* in December 11, 1886. My U. H. Music School classmate Dr. Amy Ku'uleialoha Stillman, along with Kūlia i ka Pūnāwai (Kumu Hula Association of Southern California) and others preserved this remarkable collection of Mele Jubilee in their CD, **Kalākaua; Legacy Hula Volume 1**.

Kaulahea was a 14<sup>th</sup> century Lāhaina chieftan and grandfather of Kaululā'au, who in turn was the first of Lāna'i's chiefly line. Kaululā'au was famous for ridding the haunted island of Lāna'i of its restless spirits. Polihua is a north-shore Lāna'i beach where sea turtles often nest, directly across the Kalohi channel from Moloka'i; and Kaunolū Bay (SE Lāna'i) is the site of a now-deserted fishing village. The "pua i'i" of Moloka'i refers to the legendary fish nursery in the waters off Pālā'au, and the following text compares the shoals of fish fry to the Milky Way. Makali'i, besides being the name of the Pleiades, is also the name of the seacoast bluff area makai and north of the lovely historic churches of Kalawao. I'a (line 8) is another name for the Milky Way.



King David Kalākaua (1836-1891)  
became ruler in 1871

*Above left: Lāna'i, as seen from Nā'iwa (Robert Mondoy, 2011)*

*Below left: Makali'i coastline, Kalawao (Robert Mondoy, 2011)*

