

Hame Pila

The Harmonica

Kaulana mai nei kahi hame pila lā
 Ka ipu honehone me ka huapala lā,
 Huapala lā, huapala lā

Famous is a certain humming instrument
 The sweet sounding instrument which teases
 The sweetheart

A he hewa iho 'oe i ka 'ama'ama lā
 He i'a lāwalu ho'omoemoe lā,
 Moemoe lā, moemoe lā

You are mistaken in pursuing the young mullet
 It is a fish for broiling in ti leaves
 Lay for broiling

A e iho au i Waialua lā
 I laila iho au haupa iho ai lā,
 Iho ai lā, iho ai lā

And when I descend to Waialua
 There I will eat heartily
 Will eat

Inā 'o mine ku'u lio holo lā
 Mea 'ole ke 'alu iho nā pali lā,
 Nā pali lā, nā pali lā

If my horse were my own
 Effortless would be the descent on the cliffs
 The cliffs

Ha'ina 'ia mai ana ka puana lā
 Kaulana mai nei kahi hame pila lā,
 Hame pila lā, hame pila lā

Tell the refrain
 Famous is a certain humming instrument,
 The harmonica

(Translation: after Lalepa Koga, alt.)



Waialua Valley and the pali of
 Pākaikai (Robert Mondoy, 2011)

The unusual title may be explained as follows; Hame is a probably a transliteration of the word "hum", and pila, while specifically a string instrument, does mean the playing of *any* instrument. The likeliest candidate; the harmonica⁷. A portable instrument, it can be kept in your pants pocket. The juvenile mullet, vrs.2, line 1, perhaps represents someone beyond one's reach. Vrs. 3, line 1, the descent may describe Waialua Valley on Moloka'i, whose steep back valley walls are known as Pākaikai. Those cliffs, verse 3, stanza 2, represent obstacles⁸. And why not include this ribald song in the collection? On Moloka'i I grew up with a lot of rascally people, too! Such a naughty song; leave those mullet be! Charles Ka'apa is also credited for writing " 'Ālika" and " Papa Sia," all of them songs with risqué meanings. A careful examination of the photo may explain the cause for the Waialua reference.

Hame Pila

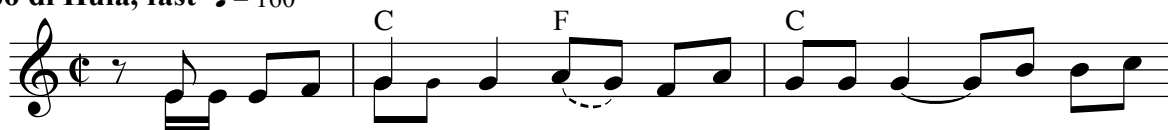
59

Mele Aloha
O Moloka'i

‘Ōlelo me ka leo: Charles Ka‘apa, 1928

Transcribed after Lani McIntyre (ca.1939) & Gabby Pahinui (1957)

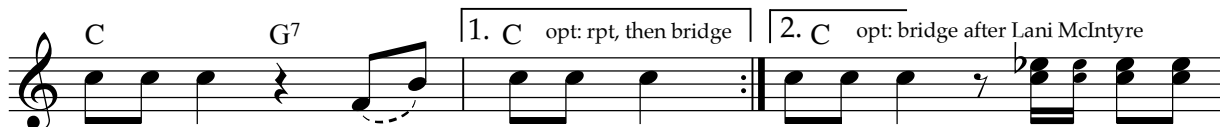
Tempo di Hula, fast ♩ = 160



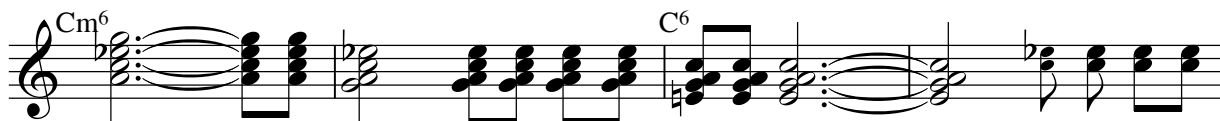
1. Kau - la - na mai nei ka - hi Ha - me Pi - la lā Ka i - pu
2. A - he he - wa i - ho ‘oe i ka ‘a - ma - ‘a - ma lā He i - ‘a
3. ʻ A e i - ho au i Wai - a - lu - a lā I lai - la
4. I - nā ‘o mi - ne ku - ‘u li - o ho - lo lā Mea ‘o - le
5. Ha - ‘i - na ‘i - a mai a - na ka pu - a - na lā Kau - la - na



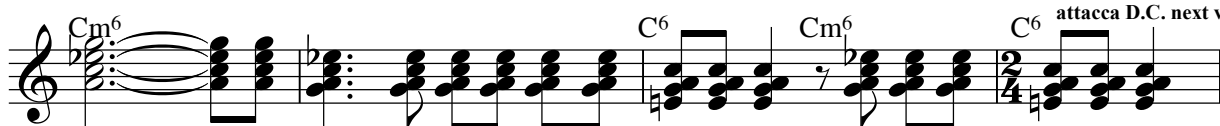
ho - ne - ho - ne me ka hu - a - pa - la lā, hu - a -
lā - wa - lu ho - ‘o - mo - e - mo - e lā mo - e -
i - ho au ha - u - pa i - ho a - i lā i - ho
ke ‘a - lu i - ho nā pa - li lā nā
ma - i ne - i ka - hi Ha - me Pi - la lā Ha - me



pa - la lā, hu - a - pa - la lā pa - la lā *Kau - la - na*
mo - e lā mo - ‘e - mo - ‘e lā mo - ‘e lā *A he he - wa*
a - i lā, i - ho a - i lā a - i lā ʻ A e
pa - li lā nā pa - li lā pa - li lā I - nā ‘o
Pi - la lā Ha - me Pi - la lā. (*rpt, then pau*)



mai nei ka - hi Ha - me Pi - la lā Ka i - pu
i - ho ‘oe i ka ‘a - ma - ‘a - ma lā He i - ‘a
i - ho au ʻ i Wai - a - lu - a lā I lai - la
mi - ne ku - ‘u li - o ho - lo lā Me - a ‘o - le



ho - ne - ho - ne me ka hu - a - pa - la lā, ka hu - a - pa - la lā
lā wa - lu ho - ‘o - mo - e - mo - e lā, ʻ mo - ‘e - mo - ‘e lā
i - ho au ha - u - pa i - ho a - i lā ʻ i - ho a - i lā
ke ‘a - lu i - ho nā pa - li lā, ʻ nā pa - li lā