

## E Hihīwai

(Hihīwai Limpet)

Aia i ka nani  
 o Moloka'i lā  
 I nā pali weliweli o ke Ko'olau  
 Hea mai ka leo hone  
 I ke ahiahi lā  
 I ka makani 'Ekepue o ke awāwa

There in the beauty of Moloka'i  
 Amid the awesome cliffs of the windward side  
 The sweet voice beckons  
 In the evening hours  
 On the cold 'Ekepue wind of the valley

HUI  
 E hihīwai lā lae lae  
 E ho'i mai kāua lā  
 I ka 'āina uluwehi o Wailau  
 Hanohano wale nō  
 Ka wailele Kahiwa lā  
 A me ke kuahiwi 'o Oloku'i

O hihīwai lā lae lae  
 Let us two return  
 To the lush beautiful land of Wailau  
 Simply glorious  
 Is the waterfall Kahiwa  
 And the mountain peak of Oloku'i

Mele kākou nei a pau  
 I ka mele 'āina lā  
 O ka nani mae 'ole o ke ola mau  
 'O ka makani ku'u leo  
 'O ke kai ku'u pu'uwai  
 'O ka 'āina uluwehi ku'u nui kino

Let us all sing together  
 The song of the land  
 Of the never fading beauty of life eternal  
 The wind is in my voice  
 The sea is in my heart  
 The lush and beautiful land is my whole being

*(translation: Puakea Nogelmeier)*

photo: alan.cressler@gmail.com

A very likeable song with a very unlikely subject: A fresh water limpet endemic to Hawai'i, the hihīwai (*Neritina granosa*, Sowerby 1825). Found live in streams from sea level to about 1200 feet in elevation, they eat freshwater algae off of rocks in clean, fresh-flowing streams. The hatchlings flow downstream to salt water to grow for about a year, and swim up-stream to re-locate as adults. Due to ecological degradation of Hawai'i's fresh water streams, they are not as common as before. It doesn't help that they are quite edible. Dennis Kamakahi (1953-2014) possessed wonderful song-writing skills and was keenly observant and moved by all his life of all things bright and beautiful.

Right: Wailau Valley (R. Mondoy, 1994)



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*Mele Aloha*

*O Moloka'i*

Moderate, felt in "2"

Hua 'ōlelo me leo: Dennis D. Kamakahi (1953-2014), 1976  
transcribed after Eddie Kamae & The Sons of Hawai'i (LP), 1975

$\text{♩} = 132$

1. A - i - a i ka na - ni o Mo - lo - ka - 'i lā  
2. Me-le kā-kou nei a pau i ka me - le 'āi - na lā

I nā pa - li we - li - we - li o ke Ko - 'o - la - u  
O ka na - ni ma - e 'o - le o ke o - la ma - u

He-a mai ka le - o ho - ne i ke a - hi - a - hi lā  
'O ka ma - ka - ni ku - 'u le - o 'o ke kai ku' u pu - 'u - wai

I ka ma - ka - ni 'E - ke - pu - e o ke a - wā - wa  
'O ka 'āi - na u - lu - we - hi ku - 'u nu - i ki - no

E hī - hī - wai lā lae lae e ho - 'i mai kā - u - a lā I ka 'āi - na

u - lu - we - hi o Wai - la - u Ha - no - ha - no wa - le nō

ka wai - le - le Ka - hi - wa lā A me ke

ku - a - hi - wi 'o O - lo - ku - 'i.

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