

Noho Ana Laka I Ka Uluwehiwehi

Nono ana Laka i ka ulu wehiwehi

Kū ana i luna o Mo'ohelāia

'Ka 'ōhi'a kū i luna o Maunaloa

Aloha mai Kaulana'ula ia'u

Eia ka 'ula lā, he 'ūlāleo,

He mōhai e kānaenae na'u iā 'oe

E Laka ē, ho'oulu 'ia!

Laka Dwells in the Lush Growth

Laka dwells in the lush growth
That stands above Mo'ohelāia,
The 'ōhi'a stands on top of Maunaloa,
Love comes from Kaulana'ula to me
Here is the 'ula, the trilling chant of affection,
an offering from me, the supplicant, to you, Laka,
O Laka, give me inspiration!

(Translation by Sonny Ching)

The summit of Maunaloa was home to Kaulana'ula, Laka (the patron of hula), and other gods. Mo'ohelāia (an unspecified location) was said to be near Maunaloa's summit, Pu'unānā, and the area's 'ōhi'a lehua was made famous in chant. Maunaloa, Moloka'i is considered to be the birthplace of the art of hula, a gift of Laka to mortals.¹ An excellent discussion of this chant (and variants of it) is in *Helen Robert's Ancient Hawaiian Music*, which also includes notated transcriptions.² Kumu hula John Ka'imikaua (1958-2005) was very much drawn to the origins and traditions of hula kahiko and founded with others in 1991 the Moloka'i Ka Hula Piko as a cultural and educational event, a venue celebrating Moloka'i (in particular Kā'ana) as the birthplace of the hula. The celebrations were held at Pāpōhaku Beach Park at Kaluako'i.



Left: Pu'unānā, the 1382 ft. summit of Maunaloa, is just left of the water reservoir and communication towers. Just makai of Pu'unānā is Kā'ana, a near-plateau of considerable expanse. The pu'u at the right drop-off is Kukui, and the middle one is Punakou. Lāna'i is on the horizon, just beyond the Kalohi Channel. *(Robert Mondoy, 2008)*

Below: Maunaloa, as seen from Kaunakakai wharf in the early morning. *(Robert Mondoy, 2010)*

