

Kaulana Moloka'i [E Koni Lā]

Kaulana Moloka'i e koni lā
I ke ku'i lā'au e koni lā

Ka 'oni o ke * _ kai e koni lā
A he nani Hā'upu e koni lā

Ke kai o Hīlia e koni lā
Ma ka ono aka 'ia e koni lā

Hopu nō me ka lima e koni lā
I ka peku wāwae e koni lā

Ha'ina ka puana e koni lā
A he nani Moloka'i e koni lā

Famous is Moloka'i [Keep that beat]

Famous is Moloka'i, keep that beat
For the Moloka'i ku'i hula with the lā'au, do keep that beat

The motion of the * _ ocean, keep that beat
And the beauty of Hā'upu, do keep that beat

The Sea of Hīlia, keep that beat
With the ono reflected in the water, do keep that beat

Seize with the hand, keep that beat
Kick with the foot, do keep that beat

Repeat the refrain; keep that beat
And Moloka'i is beautiful, do keep that beat

* _ : Camara collection text has a word missing here. Inserting "kai" here is a word as good as any...*r.m.m.*

(Translation; Robert Mondoy; subject to revision)

This is the text of a possibly historic Hula Ku'i Moloka'i demonstrating the ancient and unique fast hula form of Moloka'i. Such hula was replete with stamping, heel twisting, thigh slapping, the dipping of knees, the doubling of fists as in boxing, and vigorous gestures imitative of such pursuits as dragging fish nets. Hā'upu is the reach of land extending the western wall of Pelekunu Valley into the sea; there are a number of legends associated with Hā'upu and its unique geology. Hīlia was the area of coastline bounded by Pākanaka fishpond in the west and Kalama'ula in the east. We nowadays call the area Pālā'au. It was fabled in pre-contact Moloka'i for its abundance of mullet so numerous that fishermen kicked them ashore with the sides of their feet.¹² Our once abundant fishery there is currently under stress from over-fishing by local and visiting sportsmen who are unaware of the area's importance as a source of primary food-subsistence to many Moloka'i folk, who liken the area from Kalama'ula to Lā'au point to their "ice-box (refrigerator)."

This song was shared by Vicky Burrows (1904-1984) (*left*) who came to Moloka'i from Honolulu, and married Moses Burrows in 1926. She was a Moloka'i hula teacher in the 1930s through the 1960s. Vicky's husband Moses helped her with Hawaiian translations. She shared this anonymous mele hula in the **Moloka'i Song Album** collection assembled by Marsha Camara in 1981. Moses Burrows (1896-1967) and his older brother David, (1898-1964) were the children of John Russell Burrows (-), who maintained the Lā'au Point lighthouse during territorial days in the tradition of *his* father during the monarchial days, John Warren Burrows (-), the original lighthouse keeper there. Kauila Reyes (1926-2019), who studied under Vicky Burrows as a girl, and in

Honolulu under Tom Hiona (1915-1968) and Katie Nakaula (-), helped to inspire the following 'auwana setting. I am grateful for her friendship and encouragement.

Later pix of Vicky and
Moses

Right: Four terrific Moloka'i kupuna: L to R: Anna Lou Arakaki (daughter of Harriet Ne), Anakala Pilipo Solatori, Kauila Po'aha Reyes, and Auntie Pearl Keawe Souza. Photo by Hula Preservation Society, 2015



Possibly a mele hula from antiquity, anonymous; shared in the Camara collection by Vicky Burrows ca. 1981. This typeset proffered for educational purposes only. All typesets ©2011 Mondoy Music 1555 Pōhaku St. Apt. B-104 Honolulu HI 96817 (808) 845-8405
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Kaulana Moloka'i

[E Koni Lā]

'Ōlelo: Possibly based on ancient oli; shared by Vicky Burrows (1904-1984)

Leo: Hula 'Auana interpretation by Robert M. Mondoy, 2011,
in the manner of 1930's Hawaiian songs

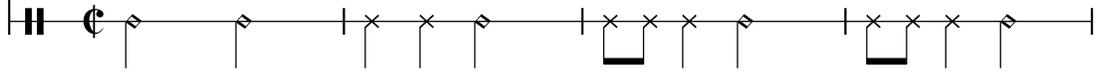
Lively, swing eighths

♩=92-112



1. Kau-la - na Mo-lo - ka - 'i e ko - ni lā
2. Ka 'o - ni o ke *ka - i
3. Ke ka - i o Hī - li - a
4. Ho - pu nō me ka li - ma
5. Ha - 'i - na 'i - a ma - i

Kālā'au, Pū'ili (arr. *rmm.*)



- I ke ku - 'i lā - 'a - u e ko - ni lā
 A he na - ni Hā - 'u - pu
 Ma ka o - no a - ka 'i - a
 I ka pe - ku wā - wa - e
 A he na - ni Mo - lo - ka - 'i

Perc.



*

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Possibly based on an ancient oli, anonymous; in the Camara collection shared by Vicky Burrows ca. 1981.

Tune: Hula 'Auana interpretation by Robert M. Mondoy, 2011, in the manner of Hawaiian tunes from the 1930s.

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