

## Lei Hālawa

Lei Hālawa i ka ua a ka Nāulu  
 Lei Kauhuhu i ke 'ala o ka līpoa  
 Lei Papākea i ka makani Lawe'ehukai  
 Lei ho'i 'oe i ka 'ehu wai lā o Moa'ula

HUI

E ka makani houhou 'ili o ka 'āina  
 O ka 'āina, o ka 'āina  
 'O ka pā kolonahe mai a ka Hau i ka palai  
 'A'ole hewa he 'olu ia lā ua hiki nō

Lei Kā'ili i ka lau o ke kamani  
 Lanikāula ho'i i ka lau o ke kukui  
 Lei Kūnapa i ka maile lau onaona  
 Lei ho'i 'oe i ka 'ehu wai lā o Moa'ula

Lei 'Ōpele i ke 'ala o ka pīkake  
 Hanaka'ulua ho'i i ka lau o ka palai  
 Lei Kapana i ke onaona 'awapuhi  
 Lei ho'i 'oe i ka 'ehu wai lā o Moa'ula

## Hālawa's Wreath

Hālawa's wreath is the Nāulu rain  
 Kauhuhu's wreath is the fragrance of līpoa seaweed  
 Papākea's wreath is the Lawe'ehukai wind  
 You are wreathed with the spray of Moa'ula Falls

O skin-pressing wind of the land  
 Of the land, of the land  
 As the Hau breeze stirs the fern  
 No flaw can be found here, all is peaceful, indeed.

Kā'ili's wreath is kamani leaves  
 Lanikāula's, the leaves of the kukui  
 Kūnapa's wreath is the fragrant-leafed maile  
 You are wreathed with the spray of Moa'ula

'Ōpele's wreath is the fragrance of jasmine  
 Hanaka'ulua's, the fronds of the palai fern  
 Kapana's wreath is the fragrance of ginger  
 You are wreathed with the spray of Moa'ula

(translation by Puakea Nogelmeier, 2010)

This oli from the Hālawa Community & School probably predates its attachment to the melody for "Hawai'i Aloha." It is an excellent example of poetry that actively enumerates of the name-places of a particular place while at the same time extolling its natural resources and beauty and legends. The numerous name places above are described on pg. 24. Some other translations of "Lei Hālawa" (such as huapala.org) interpret these names as wind-names rather than name-places.

## Name-places mentioned in “Lei Hālawa”



(Map courtesy of U.S. Geological Survey)

(Mahalo to Pilipo Solotario for the name-place locations and descriptions. <sup>1</sup> Italicized numbers are not mentioned, but are informational)

- 1 **Kauhuhu** (“Edge of a Precipice”) is the leftmost arm of the bay, with its large boulders. Pilipo Solotario has told me a delightful tale of the honu (sea turtles) that fed there on the līpoa. <sup>2</sup> You’ll notice the rough waters of Kauhuhu as you leave the bay on your way out on a boat-tour of the North Shore. Kauhuhu is also the name of a shark-God of yet other Moloka’i legends of antiquity.
- 2 **Papākea** (“White sea-spray”) are the cliffs just beyond Mokupapapa (“Flat Island”).
- 3 **Moa’ula Falls**: in another oral tradition from Hālawa; Mo’o’ula Falls (*see photo, pg. 27*).
- 4 **Kā’ili** is the site of a famous Kamani grove planted by Kamehameha III. <sup>3</sup>
- 5 **Lanikāula Kukui Grove** (“Kalanikāula”) is visible from the highway only if you stop (and park carefully, watching for cars) and peer through the shrubs before the turn that ends the straight-way with the pasture on the left...such “Moloka’i” instructions!
- 6 **Kūnapa** (“Standing unsteady”) was a place for maile. I suggest you leave the maile there alone and support your local florist.
- 7 **’Ōpele** (“Swollen”), apparently renowned for its pīkake (Asiatic Jasmine).
- 8 **Hanaka’ulua** (“Procrastinated deed”), a home for the palai fern.
- 9 **Kapana** (“Bank of a stream”) has ‘awapuhi kuahiwi (“Shampoo” Ginger) in abundance.
- 10 **Kai’ili**, the name of the waters of the left part of the bay, is so named after the rocky, pebbly shore here.
- 11 **Kaiwili**, the name of the waters of the right part of the bay, is so named after the rough seas there (“Kaawili” in *Kirch & Kelley, Prehistory and Ecology in a Windward Hawaiian Valley: Halawa Valley, Molokai, pg. 180*). <sup>4</sup>
- 12 The site of Matthew H. Kāne’s home <sup>5</sup>, the composer of “Moloka’i Waltz” and other songs.
- 13 **Kaio**, the site of Pilipo Solotario’s home.





Hālawā Bay (*Robert Mondoy, 2010*)



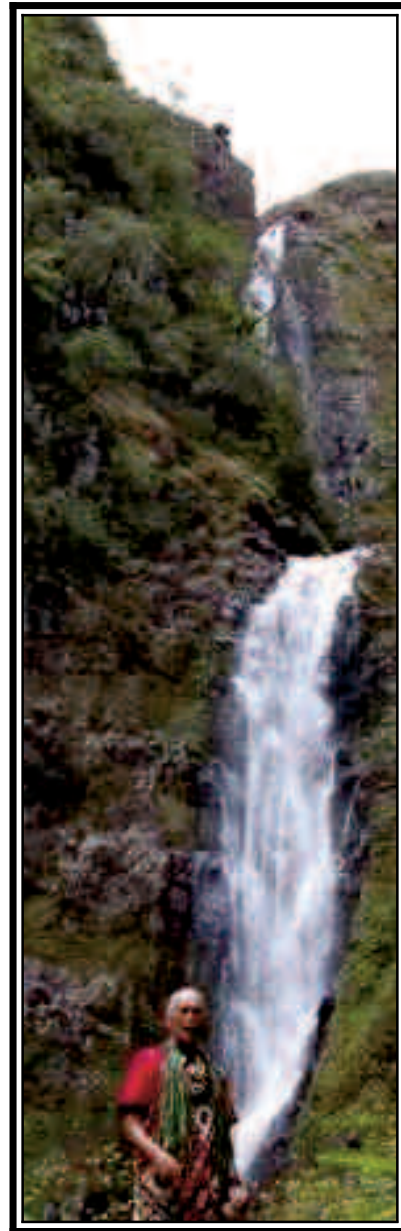
A homestead at Kaio, Hīpuapua Falls in the center  
(*Robert Mondoy, 2010*)



Lanikāula Kukui Grove  
(*Robert Mondoy, 2011*)



Papākea Cliffs (*rt.*)  
(*Robert Mondoy, 2010*)



Pilipo Solotario at the Falls; note the mo'o formation at  
the very top left (*Mahalo to Jason Hussong, 2012*)