

Hālawā Songs preserved in taped interviews: No Moloka'i Wale Nō Ia & Nani Hālawā

A very enjoyable read of Davianna McGregor's *Nā Kua'āina, Living Hawaiian Culture* (**Nā Kua'āina, Living Hawaiian Culture**, *Davianna McGregor*, Univeristy of Hawai'i Press, 2007) led me to see in her footnotes tantalizing evidence of Hālawā tunes I've not known before. This led to the opportunity of listening to a pleasant and revealing Hawaiian-language interview by Mary Kawena Pukui with Solomon and Louise Enos, longtime residents of Hālawā. (Bishop Museum HAW 108.3.2, April 26, 1961, Moanui, Moloka'i). Besides the couple sharing (and singing) several songs, this interview led to a conversation about why there is a dearth of historical mele oli of Hālawā Valley. Mr. Enos pointed out to Kawena Pukui that the song format did as well to preserve the old as well as more recent historical lore of Hālawā. The interview yielded several songs the couple sang for Kawena; "Molokai Nui A Hina" (with some different words), "No Moloka'i Wale No Ia", "Nani Hālawā", and a version of "Kani 'U'ina" adapted to celebrate Moa'ula Falls. The second song, "No Moloka'i Wale No Ia", recounts the well-documented history of a community regularly winning many periodic Pae 'Āina competitions for the Congregational Church as well as possibly other territory-wide song competitions. This song relates the events of a 1905 competition as well as the sentiments and reflections of the narrator, the composer simply identified as "Puna" by Mr. Enos. The composition date is more than likely around or after 1905. No title was given for this "victory" song, so I arbitrarily chose the last line for its ad hoc title. (To research: Was the 1905 Pae 'Āina in Waialua, Moloka'i, or Wailukū, Maui?) "Nani Hālawā" was composed by Hālawā School's principal/ teacher David Kālā'u (1893?-1934?) in the 1920s-1930s. It is a celebration, in one single song, of a good number of name-places of Moloka'i. The fourth song is a set of words to an appropriation of the Kaua'i song "Kani 'U'ina", with words altered to celebrate Hālawā's own Moa'ula Falls. The text follows (underlined syllables are downbeats):

Nani 'u'ina ka wai 'o Moa'ula *(refr. to huapala.org: "Kani 'u'ina")*
 Na 'uhehuhene..
 Ke alo o nā pali
 Ho'ohāku'i ana i ka pae 'ōpua
 Ho ohihi wale aku nō wau i laila
 'U'ina, 'u'ina, 'u'ina,
 Wailele 'O Moa'ula