

MEI 2015

Mālama Honua Voyage

Kamehameha Schools

Mele – songs and chants – are integral in chronicling Hawaiian events, history, geography, relationships, thoughts, feelings, memories, inspirations, and more.

In honor of our wayfinding heritage, we present chants and songs that range in themes from ancient chiefly migrations to such present day voyaging canoe icons as Hōkūle‘a and Hawai‘iloa. Learn from their texts and translations, and enjoy the accompanying mele recordings. Foster your own relationship with Hōkūle‘a by following the Mālama Honua Voyage online, and consider composing your own mele by learning from older compositions.

Ea Mai Hawai‘inuiākea

Na Kahakuikamoana

Fornander Collection of Hawaiian Antiquities and Folk-lore, Vol. IV

There are many different mo‘olelo around the origins of Hawai‘i. This particular mele, credited to priestly historian Kahakuikamoana, describes how some of our islands arose from the ocean while others were given birth to. A shortened version of Fornander’s 75 line text is offered below.

An excerpt of this mele is performed in olioli style in the accompanying recording.

Ea mai Hawai‘inuiākea
Ea mai loko, mai loko mai o ka pō
Puka mai ka moku, ka ‘āina
Ka lālani ‘āina o Nu‘umea
Ka pae ‘āina o i kūkulu o Tahiti
Hānau ‘o Maui he moku, he ‘āina
Nā kama o Kamalālāwalu e noho
Na Kuluwaiea ‘o Haumea he kāne
Na Hinanuiakalana he wahine
Loa‘a Moloka‘i, he akua, he kahuna
He pualena no Nu‘umea
Kū mai ke alii‘i ka lani
Ka hāluku wai ea o Tahiti
Loa‘a Lāna‘i he keiki ho‘okama
Na Keaukana‘i i moe aku
Moe iā Walinu‘u o Hōlani
He kekea kapu no Uluhina
Hānau Kaho‘olawe, he lōpā
Ki‘ina aku Uluhina
Moku ka piko o ke kamaiki
Ka ‘iwe o ke keiki i lele

*Then arose Hawai‘inuiākea
Arose from inside, from the inner darkness
Then appeared the island, the land
The row of islands of Nu‘umea
The group of islands on the borders of Tahiti
Maui was born an island, a land
A dwelling place for the children of Kamalālāwalu
Kuluwaiea of Haumea as the husband
Of Hinanuiakalana as the wife
Was born Moloka‘i, a god, a priest
The first morning light (a yellow blossom) from Nu‘umea
Here stands the king, the heavenly one
The life-giving water-drops from Tahiti
Lāna‘i was found, an adopted child
It was Keaukana‘i who had married
Had married with Walinu‘u from Hōlani
The sacred albino of Uluhina
Kaho‘olawe was born, a foundling (farmer)
Uluhina then was called upon
The navel of the little one was cut
The afterbirth of the child that was thrown*

I komo i loko o ka 'ape nalu
Ka 'ape'ape kai 'ale'ale
Loa'a ka malo o ke kama
'O Molokini ka moku
He 'iwe ia, he 'iwe ka moku
Kū mai Ahukiniala'a
He alii mai ka nānāmū
Mai ka 'api o ka i'a
Mai ka 'ale po'ipū o Halehalekalani
Loa'a O'ahu, he wohi
He wohi na Ahukiniala'a
Na La'akapu he kāne ia
Na La'ameala'akona he wahine
Ho'okauhua, ho'iloli i ka Nu'upoki alii

Ka heiau kapu a Nonea
I kauila i ka pō kapu o Makali'i
Hānau Kaua'i he alii, he kama, he pua alii
He huhui alii a Hawai'i
Na ke po'o kelakela o nā moku
I pāhola 'ia e Kalani
Holo wale nā moku i Hōlani
I ka wewehi kapu a ka lanakila
Kūlia i ka moku a Kānekanaloa
Ka ihe laumaki i Polapola
Nāna i mahiki Wanalia
'O Wanalia ke kāne
'O Hanala'a ka wahine
Hānau Ni'ihau he 'āina, he moku
He 'āina i ke a'a i ka mole o ka 'āina
'Eholu lākou keiki
I hānau i ka lā kahi
'O Ni'ihau, 'o Ka'ula, Nihoa pau mai
Pā ka makuahine
'Ō'ili moku 'ole mai ma hope

('A'ole i pau)

*Into the folds of the rolling surf
The froth of the heaving sea
Then was found the loin cloth for the child
Molokini the island
Is the navel string, the island is the navel string
Now stands forth Ahukiniala'a
A chief from the foreign land
From the gills of the fish
From the overwhelming billows of Halehalekalani
Then was born O'ahu, a wohi chief
A wohi through Ahukiniala'a
From La'akapu, who was the man
From La'ameala'akona a woman
Who sickened of the child conception, who sickened
carrying the chief Nu'upoki
At the sacred temple of Nonea
During the lightning in the sacred night of Makali'i
The was born Kaua'i, a chief, a prince, a kingly scion
Of the chiefly cluster belonging to Hawai'i
Hawai'i the foremost head of the islands
That was spread out by Kalani
The ships sailed freely to Hōlani
To the sacred precincts of freedom
Stand firm for the land of Kāne Kanaloa
The barbed spear from Polapola (Bora Bora)
That pricked and uplifted Wanalia
Wanalia was the man
And Hanala'a was the woman
Of them was born Ni'ihau, a land, an island
A land at the roots, the stem of the land
There were three children among them
Born in the same day
Ni'ihau, Ka'ula, ending with Nihoa
The mother then conceived no more
No island appeared afterwards*

(Not complete – text continues)