

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.

Eia Hawai‘i

Na Kamahualele

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

Eia Hawai‘i is a chant whose origins lie in the 12th century voyage of the chief Mō‘ikeha from Kahiki to Hawai‘i. When Mō‘ikeha’s canoe first approaches land, his foster son and navigator, Kamahualele, urges his ali‘i to settle here by chanting “Eia Hawai‘i, a he moku, a he kanaka - Here is Hawai‘i, an island, a man.” According to Abraham Fornander, this mele was delivered from the pola or crossboards of the royal double-hulled canoe just offshore of Hilo. The version below is an adaptation of Fornander’s longer text and has been passed down as a hula pūniu (sitting dance employing the knee drum) in the repertoire of Hālau Hula ‘o Maiki.

Phrasing and melody used in the hula pūniu version is given in the accompanying audio file.

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| Eia Hawai‘i a he moku | <i>Here is Hawai‘i, an island</i> |
| A he kanaka, ‘eā ē | <i>A man</i> |
| A he kama na Tahiti | <i>A child of Tahiti</i> |
| He pua ali‘i mai Kapa‘ahu | <i>A royal flower from Kapa‘ahu</i> |
| He kanaka Hawai‘i, ‘eā ē | <i>Hawai‘i is a man</i> |
| Mai Moa‘ulanuiākea Kanaloa | <i>From Moa‘ulanuiākea Kanaloa</i> |
| He kanaka Hawai‘i, ‘eā ē | <i>A Hawaiian man</i> |
| A he mo‘opuna na Kahiko | <i>A grandchild of Kahiko</i> |
| Lāua ‘o Kapulanakēhau | <i>And Kapulanakēhau</i> |
| He kanaka Hawai‘i, ‘eā ē | <i>A Hawaiian man</i> |
| | |
| He Mele no Kahiko | <i>A song for Kahiko</i> |