

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.

## Mai Kahiki Ka Wahine ‘O Pele

*Unwritten Literature of Hawai‘i*

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“Old Hawaiian chanters and storytellers, when reciting the Pele and Hi‘iaka legends, would on occasion insert into their narratives a chant in the singing (oli) style, a flashback review of Pele’s migration from Kahiki with members of her family, with a description of the building of the canoe, the gods who accompanied the party, and incidents of the journey from the homeland. Various versions of the migration story have been recorded and published.”

– Mary Kawena Pukui, *The Echo of our Song*

An excerpt of this mele is performed in kepekepa style in the accompanying audio file.

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Mai Kahiki ka wahine, ‘o Pele  
Mai ka ‘āina i Polapola  
Mai ka pūnohu ‘ula a Kāne  
Mai ke ao lalapa i ka lani  
Mai ka ‘ōpua lapa i Kahiki  
Lapakū i Hawai‘i ka wahine, ‘o Pele  
Kālai i ka wa‘a Honuaiākea  
Kou wa‘a, e Kamohoali‘i  
I ‘apoa ka moku i pa‘a  
Ua hoa ka wa‘a o ke Akua  
Ka wa‘a o Kānekālahonua  
Holo mai ke au, a‘ea‘e Pelehonua  
A‘ea‘e ka Lani, ‘aipunia i ka moku  
A‘ea‘e Kini o ke Akua  
Noho a‘e ‘o Malau  
Ua kā ‘ia ka liu o ka wa‘a  
lā wai ka hope, ka uli o ka wa‘a, e nā hoa ‘li‘i  
lā Pelehonua  
A‘ea‘e kai hoe o luna o ka wa‘a

*From Kahiki came the woman, Pele  
From the land of Pola-pola  
From the red cloud of Kāne  
Cloud blazing in the heavens  
Fiery cloud-pile in Kahiki  
Eager desire for Hawai‘i seized the woman, Pele  
She carved the canoe, Honua-i-ākea  
Your canoe, O Ka-moho-ali‘i  
They push the work on the craft to completion  
The lashings of the god’s canoe are done  
The canoe of Kāne, the world maker  
The tides swirl, Pele-honua-mea o’ermounts them  
The god rides the waves, sails about the island  
The host of little gods ride the billows  
Malau takes his seat  
One bales out the bilge of the craft  
Who shall sit astern, be steersman, O princes?  
Pele of the yellow earth  
The splash of the paddles dashes o’er the canoe*

‘O Kū mā, lāua ‘o Lono  
Noho i ka honua ‘āina  
Kau aku i ho‘olewa moku  
Hi‘iaka, no‘iau, he akua  
Kū a‘e, hele a noho i ka hale o Pele  
Huahua‘i Kahiki, lapa uila, e Pele  
E hua‘i ē!

*Kū and his fellow, Lono  
Disembark on solid land  
They alight on a shoal  
Hi‘iaka, the wise one, a god  
Stands up, goes to stay at the house of Pele  
Lo, an eruption in Kahiki! A flashing of lightning, O Pele!  
Belch forth, O Pele!*