
LEI 'O HAWAI'I

This is a song of praise, called a "Lei," composed for the 25th Anniversary of the University of Hawaii Community Colleges.

A "Lei" chant is regarded as a very fine gift. Instead of flowers, it is composed of words to honor an individual or an occasion. This "Lei" chant highlights each of the Community Colleges, acknowledging each as a flower entwined in the "lei."

The metaphor of a fragrant blossom or the beauty of a flowering plant special to each area alludes to the value and the virtue of each educational institution, symbolizing the flowering of Hawaii's youth through education.

Moani mai nei ke 'ala onaona

A puia a puni 'o Hawai'i nei

'Ōlenalena ka wai o Waiākea

I ka lehua mamō i loa'a mai

Wehiwehi ka waihona o Kahului

I ka māla lokelani e kū nei

Ohohia 'o O'ahu i ke 'ala pīkake

I māpu mai Lē'ahi a i Kulaokahu'a

I Keahiakahoe 'ike 'ia ka nani

O ka pua 'ahihi e ha'aheo nei

Ho'ohiehe nō 'o Kapālama

Weoweo i ka nani o ka pua kou

Lelehune mai ka ua i ke kula loa

A lamalama 'o Waiawa i ka lau 'ilima

Līhau 'ia 'o uka i ke 'ala mokihana

I wili 'ia me ka lau maile o Puhi

Aheahe mai ke 'ala i nā kai 'ewalu

Mai ka lā hiki a ka lā kau

Lei 'o Hawai'i i ke 'ala kūpaoa

E lei ha'aheo ai i nā kau a kau

The rich sweet fragrance drifts on the wind

And all of Hawai'i is suffused with its scent

The waters of Waiākea shimmer gold

From the rare lehua mamō that has been found

The ancestral treasures of Kahului are verdant

From the lokelani garden that stands there

Excitement wells up on O'ahu from the scent of pīkake

That has spread from Lē'ahi to Kulaokahu'a

At the heights above Kāne'ohe the beauty is seen

Of the pua 'ahihi that stands so proud

Distinguished indeed is Kapālama

Glowing red in the beauty of the kou blossoms

The misty rains move down 'Ewa's great plain

And Waiawa shines gold from its abundant 'ilima

The heights are freshened with the scent of mokihana

Entwined with the maile of Puhi

The fragrance permeates all of Hawai'i

To the far reaches of the island chain

Hawai'i is adorned with the sweet scented lei

To wear proudly for all times