

Haku Mele Project

WHAT IS KAONA?

PAPA MO'OMEHEU HAWAI'I

ON KAONA..

"The Hawaiian language with the kaona of its meanings is the finest of all languages among the peoples on earth; the beauty and the excellence of kaona is seen in the song lyrics of its ancestors; not like it is today, where the meaning is just said with no hiding of the kaona."

WHAT IS KAONA?



WHAT IS KAONA?

noun. hidden meaning, as in Hawaiian poetry; concealed reference, as to a person, place, or thing; words with double meanings that might bring good or bad fortune.



NO KE AHA? WHY?

A black and white photograph of a hand holding a pen, writing on a notebook. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the notebook and the hand. The text 'NO KE AHA? WHY?' is overlaid in large, bold, yellow letters on the left side of the image.

- *showcases composer's level of rhetorical skill*
- *reflects composer's knowledge of their audience*
- *showcases complexity in composition*
- *is an indication of intelligence*
- *connects present to past*

KAONA

...is one of the most common and most intriguing features of Hawaiian speech, prose, and poetry and thus requires discussion here...kaona is a story, a critique, or another kind of message discernible to the recipient of the message

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EXAMPLES OF KAONA

IN OLELO NO'EAU

Pua mai nei ka lehua
The lehua is blossoming

Ka 'iwa ālai maka
The 'iwa bird that catches the eye

I ulu nō ka lālā i ke kumu
The branches grow because of the tree

Po'o 'Ōpae
Shrimp Head





MAKA WALU

Multiple Perspectives,
Multiple Interpretations



Incorporating the senses

IMAGERY & EMOTION



TIPS

- *Utilize the five senses: sight, smell, taste, sound, and touch*
- *Incorporate metaphors (ex: the curtain of night fell upon us)*
- *Incorporate personification (ex: The rain danced across the land)*



PRACTICE MAKES BETTER

Try your hand at creating 1 line of poetry that creatively presents this mana'o:

I am from Maui