

Ka Mele a Kahakuikamoana

unuhi 'ia e J. La'akapu Lenchanko

Ea mai Hawai'inuiākea,	<i>Hawai'inuiākea rises</i>
Ea mai loko mai o ka pō,	<i>Rising from the depths of antiquity</i>
Puka mai ka moku, ka 'āina,	<i>The island burst forth, the land</i>
Ka lālani 'āina o Nu'umea,	<i>The row of land of Nu'umea (Polynesia? Haumea?)</i>
Ka pae 'āina i o kūkulu o Kahiki.	<i>The archipelago stretching out to Kūkulu o Kahiki.</i>
Hānau 'o Maui he moku, he 'āina,	<i>Born is Maui, an island, a land,</i>
Na kama o Kamālālāwalu e noho,	<i>Which the descendants of Kamālālāwalu inhabit</i>
Na Kuluwai'ea o Haumea he kāne,	<i>Kuluwai'ea of Haumea was the man</i>
Na Hinanuialana he wahine	<i>Hinanuialana was the woman,</i>
Loa'a Moloka'i he akua, ke kahuna	<i>Begotten was Moloka'i, a god, the priest,</i>
He pualena no Nu'umea	<i>A glimmering of dawn belonging to Nu'umea</i>
Kū mai ke ali'i ka lani	<i>The chief appears, the heavenly one</i>
Ka haluku wai ea o Tahiti,	<i>The waters of life billow forth of Tahiti *</i>
Loa'a Lāna'i he keiki ho'okama	<i>Lāna'i is begotten, an adopted child</i>
Na Keaukāna'i i moe aku,	<i>Keaukāna'i laid down</i>
Moe iā Walinu'u o Hōlani	<i>Mated with Walinu'u of Hōlani</i>
Ke kekea kapu no Uluhina	<i>The sacred albino (semen)¹ belonging to Uluhina</i>
Hānau Kaho'olawe, he lōpā.	<i>Born was Kaho'olawe, a peasant (child of lōpā)²</i>
Ki'ina aku Uluhina	<i>Uluhina was summoned</i>
Moku ka piko o ke kamaiki,	<i>The umbilical cord was severed</i>
Ka 'iewe o ke keiki i lele	<i>The placenta of the child was thrown</i>
I komo i loko o ka 'ape nalu,	<i>Into the rolling surf</i>
Ka 'ape'ape kai 'ale'ale,	<i>The froth³ of the undulating sea</i>
Loa'a ka malo o ke kama,	<i>The loincloth of the child was obtained</i>
'O Molokini ka moku.	<i>Molokini is the island.</i>
He 'iewe ia, 'ā, he 'iewe ka moku.	<i>It is a placenta, indeed, the island is a placenta.</i>
Kū mai 'Ahukiniala'a	<i>'Ahukiniala'a appears</i>
He ali'i mai ka nānāmū	<i>A chief from the Nāmū people⁴</i>
Mai ka 'api o ka i'a,	<i>From the gills of the fish</i>
Mai ka 'ale po'i pū o Halehalekalani,	<i>From the engulfing waves of Halehalekalani</i>
Loa'a O'ahu he wohi,	<i>O'ahu is begotten, a wohi chief</i>
He wohi na 'Ahukiniala'a.	<i>A wohi chief belonging to 'Ahukiniala'a.</i>
Na La'akapu he kāne ia	<i>La'akapu was this man</i>

¹ "Kekea" is translated by Andrews as "the semen of all males; semen virile." Whether this passage actually refers to an albino child is unknown. It is also possible that this line could be referring to the sacred properties of the royal ma'i of these two chiefs.

² "Lōpā" is "an uncertain term in the phrase ho'āo lōpā, marriage with a relative 24 generations removed." - Pukui, quoting Fornander.

³ "Ape'ape" refers to a row of knots, also to the breathing of the fish, which may be seen to cause the bubbles in the water which is what creates the foam in the ocean?

⁴ Nāmū refers to a legendary people who worked in silence. *Nāmū literally means "the silent ones."*

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Na La'amea-a-La'akona he wahine	<i>La'amea-a-La'akona was a woman</i>
Ho'okauhua, ho'īloli i ka Nu'upoki ali'i	<i>Becoming pregnant, feeling pain at the royal shrine</i>
Ka heiau kapu a Nonea	<i>The sacred temple of Nonea</i>
I ka uila i ka pō kapu o Makali'i	<i>In the lightning of the sacred night of Makali'i</i>
Hānau Kaua'i he ali'i, he kama	<i>Kaua'i was born a chief, a child</i>
He pua ali'i, he huhui ali'i a Hawai'i	<i>A royal child, a uniting chief of Hawai'i</i>
Na ke po'ō kelakela o nā moku	<i>It is the glorious leader of the islands</i>
I pāhola 'ia e Kalani.	<i>Which has been spread out by the Heavenly One</i>
Holo wale nā moku i Hōlani	<i>The islands sail to Hōlani⁵</i>
I ka wewehi kapu o ka lanakila	<i>To the sacred adornment of the victorious one</i>
Kūli'a i ka moku a Kāne Kanaloa,	<i>Desiring the island of Kāne Kanaloa</i>
Ka ihe laumeki i Polapola	<i>The barbed spear in Polapola</i>
Nāna i mahiki Wanalia	<i>It is he who appeared in Wanalia,</i>
'O Wanalia ke kāne,	<i>Wanalia was the man,</i>
'O Hanala'a ka wahine,	<i>Hanala'a was the woman,</i>
Hānau Ni'ihau he 'āina, he moku,	<i>Born was Ni'ihau a land, an island,</i>
He 'āina i ke a'a i ka mole o ka 'āina,	<i>A land in the roots in the base of the island,</i>
'Ekolu lākou keiki i hānau i ka lā kahi,	<i>They were three children born in one day,</i>
'O Ni'ihau, Ka'ula, Nihoa pau mai,	<i>Ni'ihau, Ka'ula, Nihoa, it was done,</i>
Pā ka makuahine,	<i>The mother ceased to reproduce,</i>
'Ō'ili moku 'ole mai ma hope...	<i>No other islands appeared afterwards....</i>

*unsure of the translation in these lines; the provided translation comes from Fornander.

This translation is a work in progress, as the rest of the chant has yet to be studied.

⁵ Hōlani = name of a mythical place. Certain stars were also referred to as "Hōlani ali'i" and "Hōlani-kū."