

Puka Mai ka Lā i Kumukahi

Puka mai ka lā i Kumukahi lā ‘eā
The sun bursts forth at Kumukahi

A welo ana i Lehua lā ‘eā
And sets at Lehua

He Waialoha ka makani lā ‘eā
The wind is the Waialoha wind

‘O Hawai‘iloa ke alahula lā ‘eā
Hawai‘iloa is the frequented pathway

I Hōlani ke ku‘ina, i Hōlanikū
Joining at Hōlani, at Hōlanikū

Kumukahi is the easternmost point in the Hawaiian chain and Lehua is a small islet off the coast of Ni‘ihau. In many mele (chants), these points are used to show the all-encompassing expanse of the Hawaiian Islands. Waialoha is the name of one the winds of Nihoa, the Northwestern Hawaiian Island closest to Ni‘ihau, and is referenced as a welcoming, refreshing breeze on an island where such comforts are scarce. Hawai‘iloa is the channel between Nihoa and Mokumanamana, the second of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. It represents the connection that our kūpuna (ancestors) once had to Papahānaumokuākea and the desire to reawaken those alahula (frequented pathways). In the mo‘okū‘auhau that was preserved by Lahainaluna student, Kaiaikawaha, Hōlanikū (believed to be Kure Atoll) is the last of the islands and thus the chant ends at Hōlanikū.