

Na'u 'Oe

Na Kainaniokalihiwai Kahaunaele
No "Grama" Kanani Pānui Kahaunaele
4 'Apelila 2001
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Na'u 'oe e ku'u lei e aloha
Kahi pua no Nāwiliwili
'O 'oe a 'o wau i ke kulu aumoe
I ka 'oē a ke kai i Kalihiwai

*My claim to you, my dear one, is a claim to love
This native daughter of Nāwiliwili
You and I and many a midnight hour
In the murmur of the sea at Kalihiwai*

I lei no'u e lei mau ai
E kau kehakeha i luna
'O 'oe ku'u mea e koa ai au

*An adornment for me to last an eternity
Take you position in the lofty heights
You are my very strength to continue*

Hāli'ali'a ku'u mana'o iā 'oe
I ke kau pua aloalo
Aloha nui 'ia 'oe e nā mamo
E waiho nei i ka poli o Kalalea

*My thoughts often recall
How you wore the red hibiscus in your hair
You are loved dearly by your very descendants
Who remain in the care of Kalalea*

Puana 'ia kou inoa hanohano
Kou inoa 'ala 'o Kanani
He nani maoli nō mai ke po'o a ka hi'u
Na'u 'oe e ku'u lei e aloha a mau loa

*Issuing forth is this name so honored
A name of much esteem, Kanani
A native daughter so utterly beautiful
My claim to you, my dear one, is a claim to love*

This mele is a name song for my maternal grandmother Kanani Pānui Kahaunaele who I had the privilege of being raised by since birth. As the eldest mo'opuna, I was fortunate to have learned and lived many of the old ways that have shaped me into who I am today. I carry her teachings proudly with the intent of taking care of my 'ohana. She was my best friend who left an indellible mark on all who knew and loved her.