



# KA 'OIHANA LAWAI'A

Hawaiian Fishing Traditions

2

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## KA LAWAIA HONU



*M*a Polihua o Lanai kahi kaulana loa i keia mea he honu, a aia no i uka o kahaone kahi e lawaia honu ai kamaaina o ia wahi ke makemake no hoi i mea ai, a pela no hoi na malihini ke makemake no hoi e holo makaikai, a ike pono, a ku ae no hoi ka makemake i mea ai, ua hiki no i ike pono i ka ia kaulana o ka aina hanau o ko'u mama i aloha nui ia i hala mua ma o i na la i omeo ae ai ko oukou mea kakau. O ka i'a ia a Pahulu i kauoha ai i na akua, aole e hookomo i ka maneo, i ka ekekeu a me ka puapua, aka, ina e hele na malihini ma laila (Lanai) e makaikai ai ia Polihua a me Keahiakawelo, ke alii wahine kaulana o ka aina o makou, a haawi mai o John Nakihei me Kaapuiki, S. Kealakaa, me Judge Kahoohalahala i ka weke-aa, me kahi mau i'a iho, mai ai oukou, o pahulu ia oukou (maneo, a hapahapai ia oe i luna e hoolewa ia ai i kou manawa e moe ai) oia i o Pahulu ke akua hope loa a Kaululaau i alualu ai a komo i loko o ke kai, oi puliki aku o Kaululaau ma ka poohiwi a palemo okoa i loko o ke kai; a ua paa i ka haku himeni ia e ka'u ohana keiki i ao ai i kela mea he ike himeni, i hala ma kela aoao, no ka pomaikai o ke Kula Kaikamahine o Makawao no 26 makahiki i hala aku, Elia, Hebera Upai, o Junia Ihihi koe e ola nei, a ua kapa ia lakou e Kiaaina Jno. M. Kapena, he mau porofesa ike himeni no ia mau la. Eia na lalani mele i paa i ko oukou mea kakau:


Chorus : Ke uhi, uha mai nei,  
O Pele la i ka lua,  
Hookekee kahi akua,  
Holo o Pahulu luu i ke kai.

Pauku 1: Pi mai moni na makou  
I mea kokua ia Makawao  
Hookahi haneri ka makou  
E kokua pu aku ai.

He mau pauku elua aku i koe, aka, ua lawa ihola ka mea pili ia Pahulu a Kaululaau i hakaka ai me na akua hanai o Lanai a pau loa i ka make, a he keiki ui kanaka maikai maoli no, a no kona uluhua i kela poe akua i ke alualu mau ia o kanaka lawaia o Lanai i kela mau la io kikilo loa,

## TURTLE FISHING



olihua at Lāna'i was a very famous place for turtles. The natives catch them on the sand on shore if they need meat. Strangers do too, when they want to visit and see for themselves and if they want some to eat. It was a good thing to see this famous sea animal of the birthplace of my beloved mother who has preceded us yonder when your writer was but a wee child. This was the fish that Pahulu asked the gods not to allow to have any irritation in its flippers or tail. But, if visitors go there, to Lāna'i, to see Polihua and Keahiakawelo, the renowned chiefess of our land, and John Nakihei, Kā'apuiki, S. Kealaka'a, and Judge Kaho'ohalahala should give some *weke 'a'a* or some other fish, don't eat it lest Pahulu get you. (It was an irritation of the throat and when you sleep you are lifted up and held in the air.) Pahulu was the last ghost that Kaululā'au pursued into the sea. Kaululā'au held on hard to his shoulders until he drowned in the sea. The tale was a theme for a song composed by one of my nephews, now passed to the other side, who taught music. It was for the benefit of the Girl's School at Makawao, twenty-six years ago. Elia, Hebera Upai and Junior Ihihi are the survivors today who were called professors of singing of those days by Governor John M. Kapena. Here are the lines of the song that the writer remembers:

Chorus:     Hissing and huffing,  
              There is Pele in the crater.  
              The goddess looks askance  
              Pahulu runs and dives into the sea.

Verse I:     Bring us some money  
              To assist Makawao.  
              We have a hundred  
              To help her with.

There are two more verses but this is enough about Pahulu, who Kaululā'au fought, along with all of the ghosts of Lāna'i who he killed. He was a handsome and good person who was vexed at the ghosts for chasing the fishermen of Lāna'i in ancient times, so he ran away from his parents.



no laila, holo malu o ia mai kona makua ae. A ina e makemake ka poe ike himeni e loa ia lakou ka leo mele o keia himeni, e holo mai i kahi o ko oukou mea kakau, a e haawi ia aku no me ke kumu kuai ole. A o kekahi no hoi keia o kahi himeni i oho ia nui loa ia, a ke ole au e paanaau kuhi hewa, ua aneane piha ka \$200 i loa ma ka aha mele i wehe ia no ka pomaikai o ke Kula Kaikamahine o Maunaolu ia mau la. Ea, lalau loa paha ka mea kakau, ua hiki hoi, e lea hoi ke mele Hawaii i ka loa o na pauku oki.

Ae, ke hiki oe i Polihua e lawaia honu ai, e hana i kou ikaika a nui. Penei e hana ai, i ke ahiahi, hele mua oe a Polihua. Moe oe ma laila, a i ka wa kakahiaka nui molehulehu, hookokoke oe ma ka hai mauu kalamalo e pili ana me ke one, e ike no auanei oe i na honu wahine nunui e hoi ana i kai, ia manawa e holo awiwi oe me ka mama a loa ka honu, a laila, o ka wawae hema, keehi a paa i ka hui hema o ka honu, a o ka lima me kou ikaika a pau, ke huli ka honu; i kau hoohuli ana, e ai honu ana oe, a i ole e huli, o ke kai ka palena, a o ka hookuu ka pono o pulupe kou wahi lolo i ke kai. Eia hoi kekahi, o ka luu maoli no i lalo o ke kai, a ua maa ko oukou mea kakau i ka ike, ma ka holo mau ana i kai, o kua nalu kahi pipili mau o ka honu; i ka manawa e ike aku ai oe i ka honu e puha ana i luna o ka ilikai, e hoe oe me ka malie loa, a i ke kokoke ana aku, e luu ana ka honu a holo i lalo, ia manawa e nana iho ana oe me ka maopopo loa, a laila, o ka luu ihola no ia a loa, hoohuli awiwi me ka hikiwawe a huli ke alo i luna, he mama wale no a kau ana i luna o ka waa. A me he la, pela no ka hapa nui o na poe e makemake ana e loa na luau ono o ka honu. Eia hoi, o ka lawaia honu me ke o, o ia paha ka lawaia maalahi loa e loa ai ka honu, a ina ma Polihua e o ia ka honu, he mau kauna honu ka mea loa.

I ka M. H. 1850, e noho nui ia ana o Lahaina nei e na Polapola, mai na moku okohola mai lakou, a no ka nui o ka ulu a me ka niu, a me na hua ai e ae he nui, ua hoohihi loa lakou e noho, ma kahi i kapa ia o Puehuehu Nui ma uka koke iho no o ka home noho o ko oukou mea kakau, a ua 30 paha ko lakou nui, a o kekahi o lakou o Piope ka inoa, o ia ka helu 1 a me ka pakela akamai i ke o honu; he pinepine kona holo ana i ke o honu, ke hoi mai ua kele ka waa i ka honu; ua hiki ia ia ke o i ka honu mai ka 5 anana a hiki i ka 10 anana ke kaawale a no ko makou makemake e ike pono i ke akamai o Piope Polapola i ke o honu, ua holo kekahi keiki o makou, o Ioane Makaele kona inoa, a i kona ike pono ana, ua hooia mai o ia i ke akamai maoli; i kekahi wa he pololei no a i kekahi wa, he o i luna, a

If some singers wish to learn the tune of this song let them come to the writer's home and it will be given to them free of charge. This was a song that roused a great deal of enthusiasm and if I am not mistaken the amount received for the concert that was held for the benefit of the Mauna'olu Girl's School of those days was almost \$200. Say, the writer has been digressing. But no matter, Hawaiian *mele* are enjoyed when one knows the verses.

Yes, when you get to Polihua to catch turtles you need all your strength. It is done thus—Go to Polihua in the evening and sleep there and in the early morning, in the twilight, draw close to the edge of the *kalamālo* grass adjoining the sands and there you will see large female turtles returning to the sea. Run as fast as you can to reach a turtle, step with your left foot on the left flipper of the turtle and turn the turtle over with your hands with all your might. If you succeed in turning it over, you are going to eat some turtle meat, but if you fail, you'll find yourself in the sea. You must let go or your clothes will get a soaking in the ocean. The other way is by actually diving into the sea. Your writer has been accustomed, as he went to sea frequently, to seeing turtles gathered close to the reef. At the time that you see the turtles coming up to breathe, paddle softly until you are very close. The turtle will dive downward and then you'll distinguish it clearly. Dive down and catch it, turn it over as quickly as possible and it becomes very light and easy to land on the canoe. This seems to be the method used by most of the people who relish the greenish *lū'au* meat in a turtle. Still, the easiest way to catch a turtle is by spearing it and if one speared them at Polihua one caught several times four of them.

X In the year 1850, there were many natives of Borabora here in Lahaina that came from the whaling ships. Because breadfruit, coconuts and other fruits were abundant, they wanted to stay. At a place called Puehuehu Nui, directly inland of the home of the writer, there were about thirty of them. One of them was called Piope and he was the cleverest, the number one spearer of turtles. He went often to spear them and when he returned, the canoe was loaded with them. He could spear turtles from five to ten fathoms away. Because we wanted to know of the skill of Piope, the Borabora native, in turtle spearing, one of our boys named Ioane Maka'ele went to see for himself and assured us of his skill. He sometimes sent his spear straight forward, or upward, coming back downward to pierce it in a distance of ten fathoms. Who among us is a skilled Hawaiian turtle spearer?



hoi iho mai luna iho, ku ka honu, o ke kaawale keia he 10 anana. A o wai la ko Hawaii poe kanaka akamai i ke o honu, he lohe mahui wale mai no ko'u i ke kapena o ka Mahimahi o Kona, o na keiki kaulana no o ua kai malino la no a Ehu ka poe akamai loa i ke o honu, na Mea Mahalo Nui la J. K. Nahele, G. P. Kamauoha, S. W. Kaai, aole ka ke o maoli ka lakou, o ke ki paumalana maoli no a na o kohola e hou ai ma ka fine, ku no ka, holu ke kikala o ko Hilo kini, aole no paha e hala ka pahu ana, he kai malino i paa wale hoi ha i ke mele ia:

O Kona kai opua i ka lai,  
 Opuā hinano ua malie,  
 Hiolo na wainaoa a ke kehau-hau-a  
 Ku'u la koili i ke kai  
 Ke na-u la kamalii  
 Ke kōhi ala i ke kukuna o ka la  
 Pūmehana wale ia aina,  
 Aloha wale ke kini o Hooluhi—e  
 Ua luhea, ua lupea Kona e ka la  
 Ua hina a e ke kai a Ehu ka—ipo  
 Ua ka ia e ka waimaka o ka opua  
 Ua hanini ma ka uka o Alanapo—e  
 Poele i ka ua, na ulu a Weli—e  
 He hooweliweli ka ka ke aloha ia'u  
 He aa no o loko o'u e noho nei  
 Hele hoi au a eha ia ia la.

O keia aela na mele kaulana o ka aina o ua mau keiki kaeaea la o Kona. Aloha no.

I have hearsay knowledge from the captain of "the mahimahi" of Kona, the *Maunaloa*, that the lads of the calm seas of 'Ehu who are skilled in turtle spearing are the Most Honorable J. K. Nahele, G. P. Kamaooha and S. W. Ka'ai. They did not use a regular spear but the real harpoons such as were used by whalers to stab at the fins and get enough to weigh down the hips of Hilo's multitude. They wouldn't miss in their spearing for they are of the calm seas famed in song:

Charles?

It is Kona of the peaceful seas,  
 The horizon clouds tell of the calm.  
 The icy dewdrops are falling,  
 The sunlight streams over the sea.  
 As the children compete at *nā'ū*,  
 To hold back the rays of the sun.  
 Warm indeed is that land,  
 Fondly loved by the host of Ho'oluhi.  
 Drooping and wilted stands Kona in the sun,  
 The sea of 'Ehu the beloved flows on,  
 Smitten by the tear drops shed by the clouds.  
 Poured on the upland of Alanapō, so,  
 The rainy mist darkens the breadfruit of Weli.  
 This is a threat by my loved one to me,  
 But a daring thought tells me to remain,  
 Oh how I am hurt by that one.

This is a famous *mele* of the land of these heroes of Kona. How my affection goes out to them.



Turtles were prized for their meat, and one way to catch them was to just run and grab one before it made it back to the ocean. Note the hatchet in the foreground. Photographer: H. W. Henshaw (?), 1890–1905, Bishop Museum.

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