

W. Travis DT 416 773  
548-4165

Aloha nui,

May 8, 1984

As things seem to be settling down, at least for the time being, I would like to take the time to say hello, and thank you for writing to me. I am not sure that the little information that I have will be of much use though.

I have a keen interest/respect for the honu, though I have little experience with them except through the ancient chants and dances of the Hawaiians. The hula honu (turtle dance) mimicked the motions of the honu (rising for air - settling in the sand etc.). In time spent with Kawena Puku'i we have discussed the hula honu. Enclosed are two mele (chants) to the hula honu. I hope that the mele will be of interest, at least as an example of how the ancient Hawaiians related the honu to their lives and songs.

If you have any questions or thoughts, please do not hesitate to contact me again. I look forward to hearing from you.

I am going to take a moment to interject a couple of personal requests. If you have any suggestions on how I could possibly get to any of the northern islands for observations and photographs of the honu and 'ilio-holo-kai (monk seal) I would appreciate your thoughts. Also, I am doing work on/with Ni'ihau shells and sources. If you have an opportunity to collect a cup of sand from any coves or atolls above Ni'ihau and mark where the sand came from, it would be great. I am interested in dispersal of, or how site specific the lei type of shells are.

I used to teach Ni'ihau children while they were on Kaua'i and we have family from Ni'ihau. Our conversations have made me curious about the shells. Any help or ideas that you might be able to offer would be valued.

Good luck in your work and take care.

me ke aloha,

Kepa Maly

Aloha mai,

May 15, 1984

Thank you for writing back to me. I am glad that the mele were of interest to you. I feel that they add color to the science/study, and share an understandable/personal example of man's relationship with nature.

"Kalani manomano", the mele and description comes from a "Gaeden Isle" (Kaua'i newspaper) article in the 1940's, written by Kawena Puku'i. It has been republished in BPBM Bull. # 30, on the hula. Puku'i - Barrere - Kelly (1979/80).

Also, thank you very much for your time and consideration on the sand collections. I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience.

Take care and aloha.

me ka ha'aha'a,

*Kepa Maly*