

# Isabella Kauakea Yau Yung Aiona Abbott<sup>1</sup>

## Contributions to a Celebration of the Centennial of her Birth

Rosie Alegado,<sup>2</sup> Cindy Hunter,<sup>2</sup> and Celia Smith<sup>2,3</sup>



Izzie with her *Peleophycus*—a new genus named after Madame Pele. Photo courtesy of Bob Chinn.

### *He Lei No Izzie Abbott<sup>4</sup>*

*‘Aubea wale ‘oe, e Kauakea, Ke kāhiko ha‘abeo  
o ka ‘āina.*

*We reach out to you, Kauakea, You are the  
proud adornment of the land.*

*‘Ailana ka mana‘o ke ‘ike aku, I ke ka‘i  
nihinibi i ka wēlau pali.*

*Loving thoughts well up at the sight of you,  
Moving daintily along the loftiest of places.*

*Pā lībau ‘ia ka wao nabele, I ka hone nabenabe  
o ka ua ‘ala.*

*The entire forest is touched and freshened, by  
the gentle kiss of your fragrant rain.*

*Ala a‘e ke aloha o ke kīhāpai, A mōhala kilipobe  
maila nā pua.*

*Love springs forth throughout the garden, As  
you make flowers bloom to full perfection.*

*Puana ‘ia mai me ka ho‘obeno, Lei mau ‘o Izzie  
Abbott i ke aloha.*

*The story is told with profound affection, Izzie  
Abbott is forever garlanded with love.*

<sup>1</sup>Manuscript accepted 28 January 2021.

<sup>2</sup>Marine Biology Graduate Program, University of  
Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI, USA.

<sup>3</sup>Corresponding author (e-mail: celia@hawaii.edu).

It is with fond remembrance and reverence for her scholarship that we offer these makana (gifts) of knowledge in honor of Dr. Isabella Kauakea Yau Yung Aiona Abbott's 100th birthday.

A graduate of both Kamehameha Schools and UHM's Botany Department, Isabella Aiona was awarded her BA in 1941. Dr. Abbott's affiliation with Botany came full circle when she returned to Mānoa to take up the Wilder Chair, an endowed Chair in the College of Natural Sciences, in 1976. In 2019, "Friends of Izzie" began a yearlong celebration of her 100th birthday with events at Bishop Museum, the Waikiki Aquarium, the annual Limu Festival in Hana, Maui, and other remembrances. This project—to publish papers dedicated to Dr. Abbott's legacy of botanical research, undergraduate and graduate education, as well as pride in her Hawaiian ancestry—began late in 2019 via the generous support of *Pacific Science* Editors, Dr. Curt Daehler and Dr. David Duffy as well as the staff at *Pacific Science*.

Isabella Kauakea Aiona was born in Hana Maui, and built her research career at Stanford's Hopkins Marine Station, before returning to Mānoa in 1976 as the students' professor, telling stories of her family's traditional uses of Hawaiian plants in the famous class Botany 105, "Ethnobotany." Classically trained as a taxonomist in algal systematics, Dr. Abbott earned her Master's degree with W.R. Taylor at the University of Michigan, her PhD with G.F. Papenfuss at University of California, Berkeley and went on to validate the taxonomic standing of

~50% of our Hawaiian marine plant flora while publishing over 160 papers, six books, and nine Sea Grant-funded workshop proceedings. Her early interests in undergraduate education led to years of teaching at Hopkins Marine Station in their renowned Spring Class, as well as teaching Mānoa's popular Botany 105. To sustain students in their important undergraduate education, Dr. Abbott established an award in her name "To support and encourage undergraduate research excellence in Hawaiian Botany, terrestrial or marine" by students at Mānoa.

The papers submitted for this issue include undergraduate summer research projects as well as significant papers from more senior scientists. All were rigorously peer reviewed. The wide range of topics dedicated in this issue to Dr. Abbott reflects the diversity of interests she showed throughout her career. That so many—in different stages of their careers—came forward to honor Dr. Abbott shows the long-lasting nature of Dr. Abbott's contributions to recognize Hawaiian culture, botanical sciences, and women in science.

We would like to thank all who helped see this issue through to publication, including the authors, the many reviewers, and colleagues.

*Rosie Alegado, Cindy Hunter, and Celia Smith*

#### NOTE

4. "He Lei No Izzie Abbott" was composed by M. Puakea Nogelmeier and is printed with his permission here.

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