

ALOHA NŌ E HILO E

This is the chant the students use to ask permission to learn. They face their teachers as they chant this as the traditional way of asking the teacher if they are willing to share knowledge with them today. The teacher responds (*Aia Ka Ipu Kukui*) letting the students know that yes, you' re ready, come so that I can share knowledge with you today. Also used as an *oli mahalo* (appreciation chant) chanted to others who come to us and share; or *oli kahea*, asking permission to visit or enter an area.

Aloha nō e Hilo e
Ku'u 'āina aloha e
'O ka ua Kanilehua e
Ho'opulu i ka liko
Pū `ia me ka makani
Ka makani 'A'alahōnua
Kū a'e e nā kama e
O Hilo Hanakahi e

[translation]

Great is the love to you o Hilo
My dear beloved land
Oh the Kanilehua rain
That soaks the flower buds
It comes together with the wind called 'A'alahōnua
Here we the children stand tall
In the land of Hilo Hanakahi

Kanilehua is the name of the rain in Hilo. In this chant, this rain represents the people here in Hilo. The flower buds represents the children/the youth of Hilo. The rain that comes down and soaks the flower buds represents the people of Hilo, particularly the teachers and parents, nurturing the children with knowledge and love so that the children will grow just as the flower buds grow through the nurturing of the rain. 'A'alahōnua is the name of the wind in Hilo. 'A'alahōnua literally means "earth fragrance". The coming together of the rain and this particular wind represents the togetherness of the people and their children, and like the strong fragrance of the sweet-smelling flowers and plants that makes Hilo a pleasant place, strong is the bond of love we shall have for our children that will make Hilo a pleasant place to live in for they are the future of the land.

Hanakahi was the famous chief in Hilo and is used in this chant to designate the district of Hilo.

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