

# *Ke Ao*

For large chorus, orchestra and Hawaiian-language Ho'opa'a chanters,

by Jon Magnussen

*Dedicated to Henry Miyamura and the Hawai'i Youth Symphony,  
in celebration of his 25th anniversary and the HYS's 45th anniversary*

***Ke Ao***  
**Instrumentation:**

Large Chorus

3-4 Ho'opa'a Chanters

2 Flutes  
Piccolo  
2 Oboes  
English Horn  
2 Clarinets in Bb  
2 Bassoons Contrabassoon

4 Horns  
3 Trumpets in Bb  
3 Tenor Trombones  
Tuba

Timpani  
4 Percussion

Percussion I: *Marimba, Pu'ili*

Percussion II. *Crotales, Bow,  
Marimba, Log Drum, Tam-Tam*

Percussion III. *Large Bass Drum,  
Xylophone, Vibraphone,  
Bow, 4 Tom-toms, Tenor Drum*

Percussion IV. *Large Suspended  
Cymbal, 4 Tom-Toms (house balcony),  
Low Cowbell*

Harp  
Strings

Score

# Ke Ao

For large chorus, orchestra and Hawaiian-language chanters,  
Dedicated to Henry Miyamura and the Hawai'i Youth Symphony,  
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Jon Magnussen

**Ka Honua** ♩ = 84 c.

Piccolo

Flute

Oboe

English Horn

Clarinet in Bb

Bassoon

Contrabassoon

Horn in F 1-2

Horn in F 3-4

Trumpet in Bb 1

Trumpet in Bb 2-3

Trombone 1

Trombone 2-3

Tuba

Timpani

Percussion 1  
Marimba, Pū'ili

Percussion 2  
Crotales, Bow, Marimba, Log Drum

Percussion 3  
Large Bass Drum, Xylophone, Vibraphone, Bow, 4 Tom-toms, Tenor Drum

Percussion 4  
Large Suspended Cymbal, Tam-Tam, Low Cowbell, 4 Tom-toms (in house balcony)

Lead Chanter

House Chanters

Soprano  
*p* ō hā - nau ka ho - nu - a, a mo-le ka ho - nu - a

Alto  
*p* ō hā - nau ka ho - nu - a, a mo-le ka ho - nu - a

Tenor  
*p* ō hā - nau ka ho - nu - a, a mo-le ka ho - nu - a

Bass  
*p* ō hā - nau ka ho - nu - a, a mo-le ka ho - nu - a

Harp  
*mp*

**Ka Honua** ♩ = 84 c.

Violin 1  
*pp*

Violin 2  
con sord.  
*pp*

Viola  
pizz.

Cello  
div.  
*ppp*

Contrabass  
*ppp*





32

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E. Hn.

B $\flat$  Cl.

Bsn.

C. Bn.

1  
2  
Hn.

3  
4

1  
2  
3  
B $\flat$  Tpt.

1  
2  
3  
Tbn.

Tuba

32

Timp.

32

Perc. 1

32

Perc. 2

32

Perc. 3

32

Perc. 4

Lead

House

5. O hale ka pou lewa ka honua. 5. ...lewa ka honua... 5. ...lewa ka honua...

32

S

A

T

B

32

Hp.

32

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Ve.

Cb.

*mp*

*mp*

*div.*

*div.*

*sim.*

*sim.*

*sim.*

*div.*

*div.*

*sig.*

**A**

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E. Hn.

B $\flat$  Cl.

Bsn.

C. Bn.

1  
2  
3  
4  
Hn.

1  
2  
3  
B $\flat$  Tpt.

1  
2  
3  
Tbn.

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Lead

House

S

A

T

B

Hp.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Ve.

Cb.

40

*f*

*mf*

*mp*

*cresc.*

*mp cresc.*

*subito p*

*pp*

6. O pali nu' u ka honua, akea ka honua

7. O honua kū, o honua noho ka honua

6. O pali nu' u ka honua, akea ka honua (HOUSE)

7. O honua kū, o honua noho ka honua (HOUSE)

*non div.*

*div.*

*non div.*

*div.*

*fz*

*f*

B

Picc. (like an echo...) *sf* *p*  
 Fl. (like an echo...) *sf* *p*  
 Ob. *mf* *pp* *sf* *p*  
 E. Hn. *mf*  
 B♭ Cl. *mp cresc.* *mf* *pp* *sf* *p* *mf*  
 Bsn. *mf* *pp* *f*  
 C. Bn. *mf* *pp* *f*  
 Hn. 1, 2, 3, 4 *mp cresc.* *mf* *pp* *mf* III  
 B♭ Tpt. 1, 2, 3 II. *mp* *mf* *mf*  
 Tbn. 1, 2, 3 *mf* *pp* *f* III  
 Tuba *mf* *pp* *f* II  
 Timp. *mp* *mf* *f* *pp*  
 Perc. 1 Mba. *f* *mp*  
 Perc. 2 Crotales: L.V. *sf*  
 Perc. 3 BD: *mf*  
 Perc. 4 Sus. Cym. L.V. *p* *mf*  
 Lead 8. O honua lewa, o honua pa'a, ka honua 10. O honua a Kea, na Kea ka honua. 11. O honua a Papa, na Papa ka honua,  
 House 9. Ka honua ilalo, ilalo nu'u ka honua. 10. O honua a Kea, na Kea ka honua (HOUSE)  
 S  
 A  
 T  
 B *mf* ho -  
 O ho -  
 Hp.  
 Vln. 1 *sim.* *f* *pp*  
 Vln. 2 *sim.* *f* *pp*  
 Vla. *sim.*  
 Vcl. *sim.*  
 Cb. *sim.* *f*



63

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E. Hn.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

C. Bn.

1  
2  
3  
4

Hn.

1  
2  
3

B♭ Tpt.

1  
2  
3

Tbn.

Tuba

63

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Lead

House

13. 'O ia ho'i, 'o ka honua,  
hānau ka honua. (HOUSE)

13b. hānau ka honua.

13b. hānau ka honua. (HOUSE)

13b. hānau ka honua. (HOUSE)

S

A

T

B

63

Hp.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Ve.

Cb.

*div.*

*non div.*

*(like an echo...)*

*f*, *p*, *ff*, *mp*, *mf*, *ff*, *non div.*

D

(♩ = new ♩) E ♩ = 84 c.

Picc. *p*

Fl. *p*

Ob. *f* *p*

E. Hn. *f* *p*

B♭ Cl. *f* *p*

Bsn. *p* *mf*

C. Bn. *p*

Hn. 1, 2, 3, 4 *mf* *espress.* *pp*

B♭ Tpt. 1, 2, 3 *mp* *con sord.* *mf* *on sord.*

Tbn. 1, 2, 3 *p*

Tuba *p*

Timp. *pp*

Perc. 1 *f* *mp*

Perc. 2 *f* *mp*

Perc. 3 *f* *mp*

Perc. 4 *f* *mp*

Xyl. *f* *mp*

Lead

House

14. 'O ka honua la ho'i kō lalo nei.

S. *p* *mp* O hā - - nau *p*

A. *mp* O hā - - nau *p*

T. *mp* O hā - - nau *p*

B. *mp* O hā - - nau *p*

Hp. *mf* L.V.

D

(♩ = new ♩) E ♩ = 84 c.

Vln. 1 *f* *div.* *pizz.* *f* *p* *mf* *arco* *div.* *mf*

Vln. 2 *ff* *p*

Vla. *div.* *ff* *arco* *div.* *p*

Ve. *div.* *pizz.* *mf* *mf*

Cb. *p*



91

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E. Hn.

B<sup>b</sup> Cl.

Bsn.

C. Bn.

1  
2  
Hn.

3  
4

1  
2  
3  
B<sup>b</sup> Tpt.

1  
2  
3  
Tbn.

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Lead

House

S

A

T

B

Hp.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Ve.

Cb.

O hā-nau ka mo-ku a ku-pu,  
A lau, a lo-a a a-a, a mu-o, a li-ko.

Ka mo-ku ia lu-na o Ha-wai-ʻi.  
ʻO Ha-wai-ʻi nei nō ka mo-ku.

*mf*

*mf*

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E. Hn.

B<sup>b</sup> Cl.

Bsn.

C. Bn.

1  
2  
Hn.

3  
4

1  
2  
3  
B<sup>b</sup> Tpt.

1  
2  
3  
Tbn.

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Lead

House

S

A

T

B

Hp.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Ve.

Cb.

Mā-li-e 'i-ke-a ka mo-ku me ka ho-nu-a,  
Pa-'a 'ia le-wa la-ni i ka li-ma 'ā-kau o Wā-ke-a,  
Pa-'a Ha-wa'i, la-'a Ha-wai-'i, 'i-ke-a he mo-ku.

*sul tasto*

*ppp*



Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E. Hn.

B<sup>b</sup> Cl. *solo*  
*mp*

Bsn.

C. Bn.

1  
2  
Hn.

3  
4

1  
2  
3  
B<sup>b</sup> Tpt.

1  
2  
3  
Tbn.

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Lead

House

S  
A  
T  
B

Hp.

Vln. 1 *sul tasto*  
*ppp*

Vln. 2

Vla.

Ve.

Cb.

G

118

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E. Hn.

B<sup>b</sup> Cl.

Bsn.

C. Bn.

1  
2  
Hn.

3  
4

1  
2  
3  
B<sup>b</sup> Tpt.

1  
2  
3  
Tbn.

Tuba

118

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Lead

House

118

S

A

T

B

118

Hp.

118

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Ve.

Cb.

nei nō ka mo - ku. Mā - - - li - e 'i - ke - a ka mo - ku me ka ho - nu - a, Pa - 'a 'i - a le - wa la - ni

nei nō ka mo - ku. Mā - - - li - e 'i - ke - a ka mo - ku me ka ho - nu - a, Pa - 'a 'i - a le - wa la - ni

*mp* - - - li - e 'i - ke - a ka mo - ku me ka ho - nu - a, Pa - 'a 'i - a le - wa la - ni i ka

*mp* Mā - - - li - e 'i - ke - a ka mo - ku me ka ho - nu - a, Pa - 'a 'i - a le - wa la - ni i ka

*p* *0 sul tasto* *ppp* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *ppp* *pp*

G

H

125

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E. Hn.

B<sup>b</sup> Cl.

Bsn.

C. Bn.

1  
2  
3  
4

Hn.

1  
2  
3

B<sup>b</sup> Tpt.

1  
2  
3

Tbn.

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Lead

House

S

A

T

B

125

Hp.

125

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Ve.

Cb.

*pp* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

*mp* *p* *mp* *p*

*mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *p*

*pp* *mp* *ppp*

*sempre cresc.*

i ka li-ma`a - kau o Wa - ke-a, Pa-`a Ha-wai -`i, la-`a Ha-wai -`i, i - ke - a he mo-ku. Pa-`a `i - a le-wa la - ni

i ka li-ma`a - kau o Wa - ke-a, Pa-`a Ha-wai -`i, la-`a Ha-wai -`i, i - ke - a he mo-ku. Pa-`a `i - a le-wa la - ni

li-ma`a - kau o Wa - ke-a, Pa-`a Ha-wai -`i, la-`a Ha-wai -`i, i - ke - a he mo-ku. Pa-`a `i - a le-wa la - ni i ka

li-ma`a - kau o Wa - ke-a, Pa-`a Ha-wai -`i, la-`a Ha-wai -`i, i - ke - a he mo-ku. Pa-`a `i - a le-wa la - ni i ka

132

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E. Hn.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

C. Bn.

1  
2  
3  
4

Hn.

1  
2  
3

B♭ Tpt.

1  
2  
3

Tbn.

Tuba

132

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Lead

House

S

A

T

B

132

Hp.

132

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Ve.

Cb.

*pp*

*mf*

*pp*

*mf*

*pp*

*mp*

*mf*

*pp*

*mp*

*f*

*mf*

*p*

*mf*

*p*

*pp*

*détaché*

*f*

*détaché*

*f*

L.V.

Tom-Tom (stage)

*f*

*détaché*

*f*

138

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E. Hn.

B $\flat$  Cl.

Bsn.

C. Bn.

1  
2  
3  
4

Hn.

1  
2  
3

B $\flat$  Tpt.

1  
2  
3

Tbn.

Tuba

138

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Lead

House

S

A

T

B

138

Hp.

138

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Ve.

Cb.

*p* *mp* *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*

*mf* *p* *mf* *p*

*mf* *p* *mf* *p*

*mf* *p* *mf* *p*

*mf* *p* *mf* *p*

*f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

BD:

Tom-Tom (house balcony)

*f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

*div. sim.* *div. sim.*

144

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E. Hn.

B<sup>b</sup> Cl.

Bsn.

C. Bn.

1  
2  
3  
4

Hn.

1  
2  
3

B<sup>b</sup> Tpt.

1  
2  
3

Tbn.

Tuba

144

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Lead

House

S

A

T

B

144

Hp.

144

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Ve.

Cb.

*poco a poco cresc.*

*mf*

*p*

*mf*

*p*

*pp cresc.*

*f*

*non div.*

J



156

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E. Hn.

B<sup>b</sup> Cl.

Bsn.

C. Bn.

1  
2  
3  
4

Hn.

1  
2  
3

B<sup>b</sup> Tpt.

1  
2  
3

Tbn.

Tuba

156

Timp.

156

Perc. 1

156

Perc. 2

156

Perc. 3

156

Perc. 4

Lead

House

156

S

A

T

B

156

Hp.

156

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Ve.

Cb.

162

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E. Hn.

B<sup>b</sup> Cl.

Bsn.

C. Bn.

1  
2  
Hn.

3  
4

1  
B<sup>b</sup> Tpt.

2  
3

1  
Tbn.

2  
3

Tuba

162

Timp.

162

Perc. 1

162

Perc. 2

162

Perc. 3

162

Perc. 4

Lead

House

162

S

A

T

B

162

Hp.

162

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Ve.

Cb.

L

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E. Hn.

B<sup>b</sup> Cl.

Bsn.

C. Bn.

1  
2  
Hn.

3  
4

1  
2  
3  
B<sup>b</sup> Tpt.

1  
2  
3  
Tbn.

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Lead

House

S

A

T

B

Hp.

1  
2  
Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Ve.

Cb.

Mā-li-e 'i-ke-a ka mo-ku me ka ho-nu-a,  
Pa-'a 'ia le-wa la-ni i ka li-ma 'a-kau o Wā-ke-a,  
Pa-'a Ha-wa'i, la-'a Ha-wai-'i, 'i-ke-a he mo-ku.

O ka mo-ku la ho-'i kō la-lo nei.  
'O wai la ho-'i kō lu-na, 'o-wai la?

175 Picc.

175 Fl.

175 Ob.

175 E. Hn.

175 B $\flat$  Cl. *ppp*

175 Bsn.

175 C. Bn.

175 1 Hn.

175 2 Hn.

175 3 Hn.

175 4 Hn.

175 1 B $\flat$  Tpt.

175 2 B $\flat$  Tpt.

175 3 B $\flat$  Tpt.

175 1 Tbn.

175 2 Tbn.

175 3 Tbn.

175 Tuba

175 Timp.

175 Perc. 1

175 Perc. 2

175 Perc. 3

175 Perc. 4

175 Lead

175 House

175 S.

175 A.

175 T.

175 B.

175 Hp.

175 Vln. 1

175 Vln. 2 *ppp*

175 Vla.

175 Vc.

175 Cb.

*ppp*

Solo Chanter

O hā-nau ke ao, o hi-ki a-`e. O `o-hi a-`e ke ao, o hi-ki a-`e. O

(with Ipu Heke)

O ke ao, `o-ia ho-`i hā.











R

240

Picc. *mf*

Fl. *mf* *poco a poco cresc.*

Ob. *mf* *poco a poco cresc.*

E. Hn. *p* *cresc.* *mf* *cresc.*

B♭ Cl. *p* *cresc.* *mf* *cresc.*

Bsn. *mp* *poco a poco cresc.*

C. Bn. *mp* *poco a poco cresc.*

1 Hn. III. *mp*

2 Hn.

3 Hn.

4 Hn.

1 B♭ Tpt. II. *mp* *cresc.*

2 B♭ Tpt.

3 B♭ Tpt.

1 Tbn. *mp* *cresc.*

2 Tbn.

3 Tbn.

Tuba *mf* *cresc.*

Timp. *mp*

Perc. 1 *mf* Pu'ili

Perc. 2 *mp* Log Drum:

Perc. 3 *pp* Lg. BD: *pp* Tenor Drum:

Perc. 4 *pp* Low Cowbell *mp*

Lead La-ni 'e-ka-'e-ka hā - 'e-le-'e-le, Ha ko-na, hā-ku-ma, hā ku-ma-ku-ma, 'O ke ao nu-i mai he'e u-a kai-a. 'O ke ao nu-i mai he'e u-a kai-a. 'O ke ao nu-i mai he'e

House La-ni 'e-ka-'e-ka hā - 'e-le-'e-le, Ha-ko-na, hā - ku-ma, hā - ku-ma-ku-ma, La-ni 'e-ka-'e-ka hā - 'e-le-'e-le, Hā - ko-na, hā - ku-ma, hā - ku-ma-ku-ma, La-ni 'e-ka-

S O hā - nau ke ao, O hā - nau ke ao, *mf* O hā - nau ke ao, O hā - nau ke ao, O

A O hā - nau ke ao, O hā - nau ke ao, *mf* O hā - nau ke ao, O hā - nau ke ao, O

T ao, O hā - nau ke ao, *mf* O hā - nau ke ao, O hā - nau ke ao, O

B ao, O hā - nau ke ao, *mf* O hā - nau ke ao, O hā - nau ke ao, O

Hp.

240

Vln. 1 *mp* *cresc.* *mf* *poco a poco cresc.*

Vln. 2 *poco a poco cresc.* *mf* *poco a poco cresc.*

Vla. *poco a poco cresc.* *mf* *poco a poco cresc.*

Ve. *poco a poco cresc.* *mf* *sim.* *poco a poco cresc.*

Cb. *mf* *poco a poco cresc.*

R



258

Picc. *piu f* *sempre cresc.* *ff*

Fl. *piu f* *sempre cresc.* *ff*

Ob. *piu f* *sempre cresc.* *ff*

E. Hn. *piu f* *piu f* *cresc.* *ff*

B♭ Cl. *piu f* *piu f* *cresc.* *ff*

Bsn. *sempre cresc.* *f* *ff*

C. Bn. *sempre cresc.* *f* *sempre cresc.* *f* *ff*

1 2 3 4

Hn. *f* *piu f*

1 2 3

B♭ Tpt. *f* *sempre cresc.* *piu f*

1 2 3

Tbn. *mf* *f* *sempre cresc.* *piu f*

Tuba *mf* *sempre cresc.* *f*

258

Timp. *mf* *sempre cresc.* *f*

258

Perc. 1 *sempre cresc.* *f*

258

Perc. 2 Log Drum: *sempre cresc.* *f*  
Tam-Tam

258

Perc. 3 *sempre cresc.* *f*

258

Perc. 4 *sempre cresc.* *f*

Lead *sempre cresc.* *f*

House

S *STOMP* *STOMP* *STOMP* *STOMP* *STOMP* *STOMP*

A *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

T *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

B *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

258

Hp.

258

Vln. 1 *ff* *loco*

Vln. 2 *ff* *loco*

Vla. *ff* *loco*

Ve. *ff*

Cb. *ff*

258

T

268 spoken, full-voiced:

Picc. *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

Fl. *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

Ob. *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

E. Hn. *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

B♭ Cl. *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

Bsn. *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

C. Bn. *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

1 2 Hn. *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

3 4 Hn. *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

1 B♭ Tpt. *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

2 3 B♭ Tpt. *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

1 Tbn. *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

2 3 Tbn. *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

Tuba *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

268 spoken, full-voiced:

Timp. *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

268 Perc. 1 *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

268 Perc. 2 *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

268 Perc. 3 *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

268 Perc. 4 *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

Solo Chanter *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

House *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

S. *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

A. *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

T. *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

B. *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

268 Hp. *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

268 Vln. 1 *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

Vln. 2 *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

Vla. *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

Vc. *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

Cb. *f* o ke ao, hā - - - nau ke ao.

## ABOUT THE TEXT

### *Mele Hānau nō Kau-i-ke-ao-oli*

(Birth Chant for Kau-i-ke-ao-uli)

from *The Echo of Our Song* (ed. Mary Kawena Pukui and Alfons L. Korn pp. 14-28)

The chant was composed in honor of a newborn son of Kamehameha I, Kau-i-ke-ao-uli (1813-1854), who, as Kamehameha III, succeeded his brother, Liholiho, to the Hawaiian throne in 1824. He was born seven years before the arrival in 1820 of the first New England missionaries. ... Kau-i-ke-ao-uli, second son of Kamehameha I and the royal chiefess Ke-opu-o-lani, was stillborn, a circumstance alluded to in the repeated references to his mother's difficult labor.

The babe was "prayed into life" by a high priest, Ka-malo-ihi (also called Ka-pihe)...

...The name of the royal child, Kau-i-ke-ao-uli, meaning 'placed in the dark sky', is expressive of many of the thoughts obscurely, and yet so radiantly, embedded in the language of the original Hawaiian. The native word *ao* carried profound associations for the early Islanders. The word can mean sky, light day, daylight, and dawn. It can refer to the regaining of consciousness, and the achieving mental enlightenment. The idea of dawn is closely connected with the idea of night, and both fit in with the Hawaiian time sense, so that in this ancient language it is quite possible to speak of "that night that dawned yesterday." In some contexts *ao* can mean world or earth; and it can refer also to any kind of cloud.

So in this single nuclear element of Kau-i-ke-ao-uli's sacred name are clustered and concentrated the seeds of some of the major symbols and sweeping cosmological conceptions found in the language of this old noble poem.

--excerpted from the note by the editors, Mary Kawena Pukui and Alfons L. Korn

## TEXT AND TRANSLATION

\*Note: The original chant comprises seven sections; *Ke Ao* excerpts three of these sections (I, III and IV).

I.

1. O hānau ka honua, a mole ka honua
2. O kolokolo ka a`a, ka weli o ka honua.
3. O lani weli ka honua, o lani `i`i.
4. O holo pu ka mole, o `u`ina ke a`a,
5. O hale ka pou lewa ka honua.
6. O pali nu`u ka honua, ākea ka honua,
7. O honua kū, o honua noho ka honua
8. O honua lewa, o honua pa`a, ka honua,
9. Ka honua ilalo, ilalo nu`u ka honua.
10. O honua a Kea, nā Kea ka honua.
11. O honua a Papa, nā Papa ka honua,
12. `O ka hiapo honua a Papa i hānau.
13. `O ia ho`i, `o ka honua, hānau ka honua.

III.

1. O hānau ka moku a kupu,
2. A lau, a loa a a`a, a mu`o, a liko.
3. Ka moku ia luna o Hawai`i.
4. `O Hawai`i nei nō ka moku.
5. He pūlewa ka `āina, he naka Hawai`i,
6. E lewa wale ana nō i ka lani lewa,
7. Hano(u?) mai e Wākea, pā hano ia.
8. Mālie `ikea ka moku me ka honua,
9. Pa`a `ia lewa lani i ka lima `ākau o Wākea,
10. Pa`a Hawai`i, la`a Hawai`i, `ikea he moku.
11. O ka moku la ho`i kō lalo nei.
12. `O wai la ho`i kō luna, `owai la?
13. O ke ao, `oia ho`i hā.

IV.

1. O hānau ke ao, o hiki a`e.
2. O`ohi a`e ke ao, o hiki a`e.
3. O mukupawa ke ao, o hiki a`e.
4. O aka `ula ke ao, o hiki a`e. (stop)
5. O moakaka ke ao māla`e.
6. `Ōpukupuku ke ao meleleme.
7. O memele ka `ōpua he la`i.
8. O `ōpua nui, uli ka `ōpua hiwahiwa,
9. O hiwahiwa ka `ōpua lani`ele,
10. `Ele`ele ka lani huhulu weo,
11. Lani `eka`eka hā`ele`ele,
12. Hākona, hākuma, hākumakuma,
13. `O ke ao nui mai he`e ua kaia.
14. E ho`owiliwili ana e hānau,
15. `O ia ho`i, `o ke ao,
16. hānau ke ao.

I.

Born was the earth, rooted the earth.  
The root crept forth, rootlets of the earth.  
Royal rootlets spread their way through the earth to hold firm.  
Down too went the taproot, creaking like the mainpost of a house,  
and the earth moved.

Cliffs rose upon the earth, the earth lay widespread: a standing  
earth, a sitting earth was the earth.  
The earth lay below, from below the earth rose.

The earth was Kea's, to Kea belonged the earth.  
The earth was Papa's, to Papa belonged the earth, the earthly  
firstborn borne by Papa.  
He is this earth, the earth that was born.

III.

Born was the island, it grew, it sprouted, it flourished, lengthened,  
rooted deeply, budded, formed tender leaves.

That was the island over Hawai`i.  
Hawai`i itself was an island.

The land was unstable, Hawai`i quivered, moved freely about in  
space, Wākea recognized the island, Hawai`i recognized remained.

Visible were island and earth,  
held in heavenly space by the right hand of Wākea,

Hawai`i was held, Hawai`i was seen, an island.

Down here shall be an island.  
Who shall be above—Who?  
The cloud, that is who it shall be.

IV.

The cloud was born, it rose and appeared.  
The cloud thrived, it rose and appeared.  
The cloud came at dawn, it rose and appeared.  
The cloud flushed with a reddish tinge, it rose and appeared.

The cloud rose and appeared in clearest configuration, turned  
yellow and menacing.  
The horizon cloud hung yellow over a calm sea.

A swelling cloud, a dark cloud,  
A cloud whose deepening darkness turned to black in a sky already  
black with feathery clouds of dusk,  
a sky heavy with blackness, rough, lowering, a sky speaking in  
threat:

A vast cloud foretelling the approach of rain.  
The sky writhed in labor to give birth.  
He is this cloud:

thus it was born.