

## Mele Mo'okū

Composed by Kekuhi Kealiikanakaole & Leahi Hall for the Associate of American Geographers, 2023

Adapted for HSTA 2024

Aloha e \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_ ē...Aloha!

E \_\_\_\_\_ ē...Aloha!

Love to you, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of island/land)

To you \_\_\_\_\_ (mountain)...my affection

To you \_\_\_\_\_ (fresh/salt water)...every  
kindness

E ia mākou:

'o \_\_\_\_\_ (your home),

'o \_\_\_\_\_ (your mountain),

'o \_\_\_\_\_ (your fresh/salt water)

'o \_\_\_\_\_ ke kanaka (your family)

I ola 'oukou, i ola mākou nei!

Here I am with my family:

\_\_\_\_\_ our homeland

\_\_\_\_\_ our mountain

\_\_\_\_\_ our water

\_\_\_\_\_ our human relations

Life to you. Life to us. Our lives are  
interdependent!

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Notes:

1. A Mele is the poetry or the text; komo is entry; so the mele komo is a request for entry; mo 'o is continuum; kū is established or foundations so the mele mo 'okū is a song/text about owning your foundations
2. Aloha in terms of relationships can be described as the basic behavior of reciprocity, to exchange. In this way aloha can mean to initiate and grow a deep sense of exchange.

ulu ka 'ōhi'a a lau ka wai

3. *Addressing the elders: Line #1: insert the name of the space you are visiting/addressing like an island, a state, a county, etc; Lin #2: insert the name of the mountain, hill, ridge or high point of that place; Lin #3: insert the name of the water source of the area;*
4. *Now do the same for lines 5-8; Line#5: insert the name of your home island, city, state; Line #6: insert the name of your mountain, high point, hill; Line #7: insert the name of your water source; Line#8 insert the last name of the family you “bring” with you*
5. *Mele Komo is a request for permission to enter your energy into the energy of this particular space*
6. *Mele Mo ‘okū is an introduction of the places & features who you come from, who sustain your life; the point is to introduce the human energy to one another AND YOUR elemental/geographical space to the elemental/geographical space you are visiting/addressing*
7. *I ola ‘oukou, i ola mākou nei is the recognition that my life is dependent on yours, your life is dependent on mine.*

*ulu ka ‘ōhi’a a lau ka wai*