

MĀHEALANI  UCHIYAMA



# Pōpōloheho

Songs of Resilience and Joy



## The Stories of Hawai'i's African Heritage

Pōpoloheno is a celebration of the heretofore little known stories of people of African descent who arrived in Hawai'i at a pivotal time in its history.

People of African descent initially came to Hawai'i as a direct result of colonization and enslavement. This history reflects the safety and solidarity found by formerly enslaved Black people who were initially welcomed in Hawai'i and seen as a valued part of the community. In Hawai'i, blackness was not traditionally considered as negative, but with colonization came an atmosphere that influenced whose stories would be acknowledged. Nevertheless, from the time of Anthony Allen (a confidant of King Kamehameha the Great) onward, members of the African community in Hawai'i have made a positive impact. This deserves to be known.

In Hawaiian culture, there is no greater honor than to be gifted a mele inoa, a Hawaiian tradition in which an individual is honored with a song that commemorates their life and times, and celebrates their personal attributes. Our hope is that these songs will situate all who hear them in the time and place of the story being told, and that they may inspire hula to appear.

We are at a time in which efforts are being made to erase many histories of marginalized people in American society. Nevertheless, a resurgent energy is coalescing to ensure the perpetuation of shared stories. Pōpoloheno enters that scene with faith, determination and hope for a new era.



# MAHALO!

My heartfelt thanks and deepest aloha to the talented and amazing artists who supported this project;

Kawika Alfiche, Spenceer Allen, Ron Belcher, Ikaika Blackburn, Danny and Nani Carvalho (Kailua Moon), Michael Casil, Kamakakāhau Fernandez, Justin Firmeza, Hanale Ka'anapu and Jerome Koko (Courtesy of the Makaha Sons), Patrick Landeza, Patrick Makuakāne, Azure McCall, Randall Merritt, Kellen Paik, Sanjeev Palamand, Kalani Pe'a, Kaulike Pescaia, Wailau Ryder, and Nathaniel Māhealani Stillman.

## Project Advisors

Dr. Akiemi Glenn / The Pōpolo Project  
Adam Keawe Manalo-Camp  
Dr. Puakea Nogelmeier  
Dr. Kalei Nu'uhiwa

You inspire.

Deep appreciation to producer and engineer par excellence Dave Tucciarone. Gratitude to my California crew: Alan Kekoa Aki, Miles Keanu Aki, David Belove, Edgardo Cambon, Gray Ranitea Chadwick, Victor 'Anapa Manansala, Eva Teheiri'i Mo, Rev. Ashley Wai'olu Moore, and Christopher Trinidad.

As always, I am blessed to be held by the love of my family; my ever-patient and caring husband Kevin Farcy, and our beautiful children Hoku Uchiyama, Anna Mkhikian and Emily Dunster-Farcy.

For the ancestors, known and unknown.

Adopted by a Hawaiian family as an infant and raised on Maui, Kamakāhau Fernandez grew up fluent in Hawaiian and deeply rooted in the spirit of aloha. Known for his mesmerizing falsetto and 'ukulele mastery, he brings the heart of Hawaiian culture to every performance.



Beyond the stage, Kamakāhau is a devoted teacher of Hawaiian language and music, sharing the traditions that shaped his life. A true ambassador of aloha, he is a cultural treasure worth celebrating!

# Kamakakēhau

Words and Music by Kalani Pe'a

‘O ke ao ‘ōnohi  
Kēhau i ke aokū  
Kū i ka maka ‘o ia loke  
Ke kama ho‘i  
He kama lei no Nae‘ole

*In the ao ‘ōnohi showers  
Is also the morning dew in the aokū rain  
The countenance of the rose blossom  
Sits a beloved child  
An honored lei of Nae‘ole*

Pae i ka ‘āina he pua  
A he mānaleo lā ē  
He mana‘o pa‘a, ‘eā  
Ke kama ho‘i  
He kama lei no Nae‘ole

*The flower drifts ashore  
Here 's a Native Speaker  
A determined one  
A beloved child  
An honored lei of Nae‘ole*

He maile i pūlama ‘ia  
Me ka lei pakalana  
Lana ka mana‘o, ‘eā  
Ke kama ho‘i  
He kama lei no Nae‘ole

*A maile is cherished  
Entwined with the lei pakalana  
Staying so hopeful  
For a beloved child  
That becomes an honored lei of Nae‘ole*

## **Repeat**

He kama ho‘i  
He kama lei  
Ka maka kēhau

## **Repeat**

*A beloved child  
A beloved lei  
As a dewdrop strikes one's eye*



John Blossom (Ioane Mōhala) Born into slavery in Jamaica, John Blossom gained freedom after British emancipation in 1833 and joined a merchant ship. Captured and re-enslaved in the U.S., he escaped again and made his way to Hawai'i, where he became a trusted valet in the royal court of Kamehameha III. In 1880, he journeyed to Chile to help free Pacific Islanders held in slavery, and was killed while carrying out the mission.



## Ka Pua Mohala

Words and melody by Kawika Alfiche

Eia ho`i ka mohala o ke aloalo  
Ka pua i mohala mai Iamaika mai  
He pua hiwahiwa no nā ali`i nui  
He hānai no ka heke o nā pua

Behold the unfurling hibiscus blossom  
The blossoming flower from Jamaica  
A cherished one of the royal families  
An uncle to our beloved King Kawika

He koa no ke kū`oko`a o Hawai`i  
Ua `imi ka honua ho`opakele  
Kele akua ka honua `imi nā Kānaka

A freedom fighter for Hawai`i  
He searched far and wide through the globe  
For the Kanaka

Nā Kanaka Hawai`i ua lawe `ia  
Nō ka pua hala ua lawe i ka lani

To rescue Kanaka that were taken  
Our faded flower lost to the heavens

Eia ka mohala no nā kau a kau  
Kau mai i luna no hāliu e  
Hea aku mākou no Mohala nō  
Nō Ioane Mohala i kou inoa e

Here is the bloom to remember by all  
Placed high for all to regard  
We sing your praise Mohala  
Ioane Mohala, your name

Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. once addressed the Hawai'i State Legislature in the throne room of 'Iolani Palace. King's words that day were remarkably similar to those spoken by Queen Lili'uokalani during the over throw of the Hawaiian Kingdom.



### King Wears Flower Lei As Symbol of Support From Hawaii

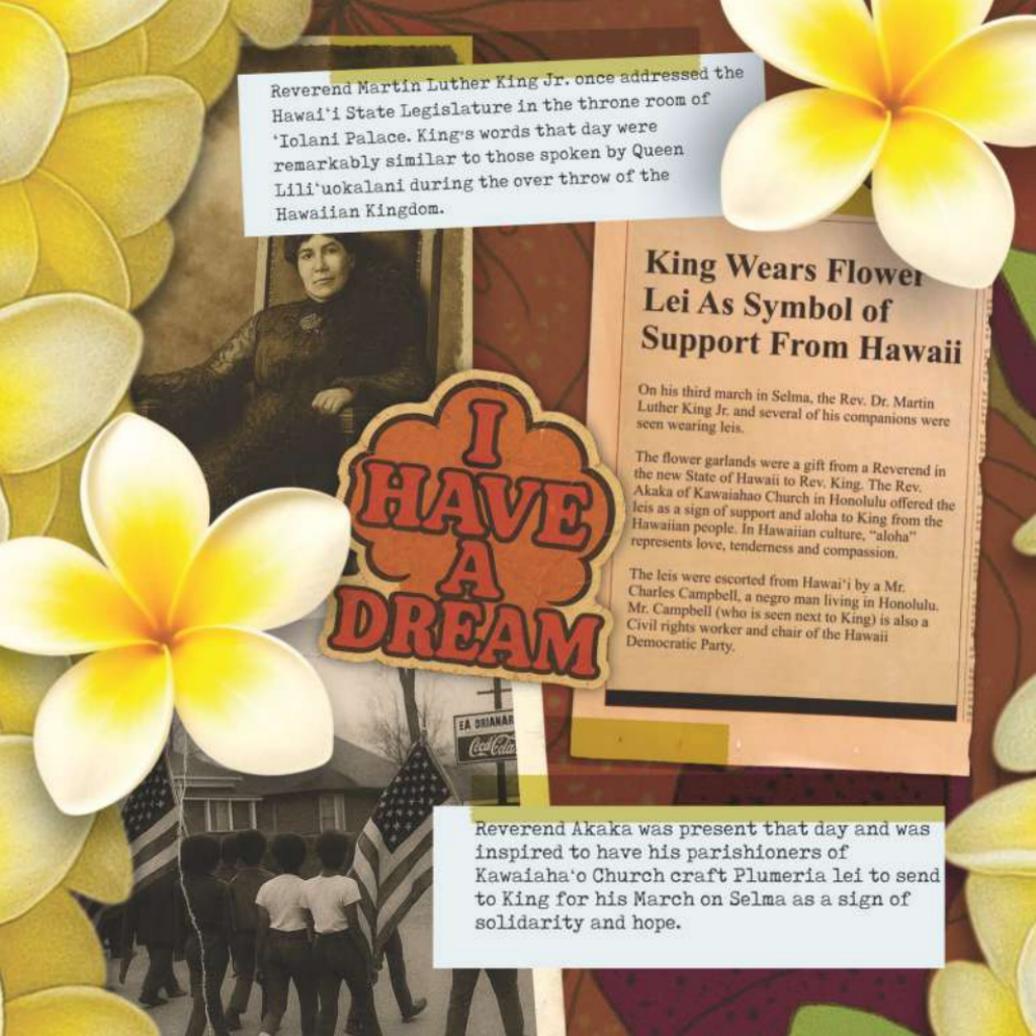
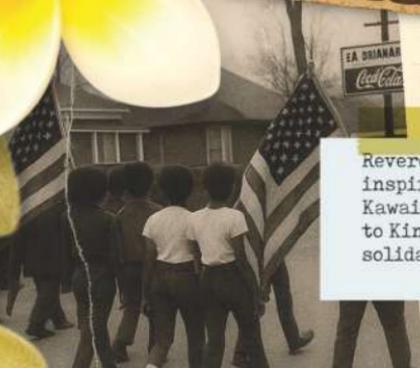
On his third march in Selma, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and several of his companions were seen wearing leis.

The flower garlands were a gift from a Reverend in the new State of Hawaii to Rev. King. The Rev. Akaka of Kawaiahao Church in Honolulu offered the leis as a sign of support and aloha to King from the Hawaiian people. In Hawaiian culture, "aloha" represents love, tenderness and compassion.

The leis were escorted from Hawai'i by a Mr. Charles Campbell, a negro man living in Honolulu. Mr. Campbell (who is seen next to King) is also a Civil rights worker and chair of the Hawaii Democratic Party.



Reverend Akaka was present that day and was inspired to have his parishioners of Kawaiaha'o Church craft Plumeria lei to send to King for his March on Selma as a sign of solidarity and hope.



# A Lei For Reverend King

Words and music by Māhealani Uchiyama, with quotes by Queen Lili'uokalani, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Reverend Abraham Kahikina Akaka

The Queen said to her people  
"Hold fast to the pride you have for your heritage  
Act with fearlessness and love"

The King said to his people  
"We are seeking to free the soul of America  
I see freedom in the air high above"

"Be unafraid, my people  
Hold yourselves up high and be proud."  
"Pursue the path of peace. We've got to see it through  
To be free, we cannot walk alone"

"Mai maka'u e nā pua  
Kū pa'a me ka ha' aheo"  
"Pursue the path of peace.  
We've got to see it through  
To be free, we cannot walk alone"

*Don't be afraid beloved people  
Stand firm with pride*

This is a lei for Reverend King  
"May our prayer enfold you in aloha  
With this symbol of hope and peace"

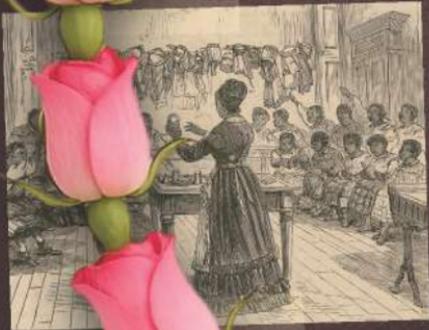
Eia ho'i kou lei aloha  
He wehi e hīpu'uai kākou  
He lei puamelia mae 'ole

*Here is your lei of love  
An adornment which binds us together  
A lei of never fading plumeria*

**Credits:** Lead Singer/Songwriter, Producer: Māhealani Uchiyama. Backup Vocals, Lead and Rhythm Guitar: Hanale Ka'anapu, Courtesy of The Makaha Sons. Backup Vocals, Bass: Jerome Koko, Courtesy of The Makaha Sons. Producer: Māhealani Uchiyama. Produced, Mixed, Mastered and Engineered by Dave Tucciarone.



Betsey Stockton (c. 1798-1865) was a formerly enslaved woman who became the first woman of African descent in Hawai'i. Arriving in 1823 as a missionary, she taught in Lahaina and helped establish public education for Native Hawaiian children. She is referred to as the "dandelion flower" because it has the ability to thrive in various environments, and is a symbol of resilience.



## He Aloha Nō 'o Waine'e

Words and music by Māhealani Uchiyama

He aloha no keia  
No Waine'e  
Me ka la'i o Moku'ula  
He nani wale no  
Kamaha'o ka 'ikena  
O ka niu a me ke kou  
Ho'okipa i ka mahihini  
He nani wale no  
Ha'ina ka puana  
'O Betesji kou inoa  
Ke kumu a'o o Lahaina  
He nani wale no  
'Akali no a hele pu"  
He nani wale no

*This is an expression of love  
For Waine'e  
With the peace of Moku'ula  
Beautiful indeed  
Wonderful is the sight  
Of the coconut and kou trees  
A welcome for the newcomers  
Beautiful indeed  
Tell the story  
Betsey is your name  
The teacher of Lahaina  
Beautiful indeed  
Just a walk together  
Beautiful indeed*

## Pua Laulele

Words and music by Māhealani Uchiyama

'Auhēa wale ana 'oe e  
E ka Pua Laulele  
I hānau ma ke kuapa'a  
A kii mai i ke kii'oko'a  
Ho'oheno 'oe, e ka pua la  
Ke kumu a'o no ka lehuilehu  
He lei pāpahi ho'i 'oe  
No kākou a pau  
'Au ho'i 'oe i ke kai loa e  
He 'ale'ale a po'ua nalu  
A luana i ka maluhia  
I ka mahi 'ulu o Lahaina  
Ho'okipa maila 'o Kalani e  
'O Kalani Kualiholiho  
'O ka maka mūa 'oe o kou 'ano  
He wahine 'Aferica i Hawai'i  
Pā ka makani Ma'a'a  
A lu ka 'ano'ano i na moku  
Ha'ina ka inoa pōina 'ole  
Ka Pua Laulele o Lahaina

*I call attention to you  
O Dandelion Flower  
You were born in slavery  
But rose into freedom and liberty  
We cherish you, my flower  
A teacher for the multitudes  
You are a lei of honor  
For all to be adorned  
You traveled over the great seas  
Wild billows and crashing waves  
Then to find rest and peace  
In the breadfruit groves of Lahaina  
The King has welcomed you  
Kalam Kualiholiho  
You are the very first of your kind  
An African woman in Hawai'i  
The Ma'a'a wind blows  
Spreading seeds throughout the islands  
Tell of the name, that it never be forgotten  
The Dandelion Flower of Lahaina*

**Credits:** Lead Singer, Arrangement, 'Ukulele: Ikaika Blackburn. Songwriter, Producer: Māhealani Uchiyama. Hawaiian Language Resource (Pua Laulele): Dr. Puakea Nogelmeier. Backup Vocals, Bass, Keyboard, Lead/Rhythm Guitar: Kaulike Pescaia. Engineer: Wailau Ryder. Produced, Mixed, Mastered and Engineered by Dave Tucciarone.



*Alice Ball (1892 - 1916)*



First woman and first African American to graduate with an MS degree in chemistry from the college of Hawaii (now known as the University of Hawaii). Developed a successful treatment for those suffering from Hansen's disease (leprosy). Became known as the Ball Method. Using the oil from the chaulmoogra tree, the Ball Method was so successful that patients were discharged from Kalaupapa. Tragically she passed away at the age of 24 from complications from a lab accident. The president of the College of Hawaii, Dr. Arthur Dean, then took credit for her research which then became known as the Dean Method. There is now a building on campus named after him. Ball has remained largely forgotten from history until recently.



CHAULMOOGRA



# Wahine Ho'ōla

Words and music by Māhealani Uchiyama

Ha'a a'ela ka makani Kōkī lā  
Ma ke alo pali o Kalaupapa  
I lei no ka Wahine Ho'ōla  
He pua kaulana o ka 'āina  
He 'ele'ele hiwa  
Ke kōkua i ka lo'ohia  
Me ka wai lā'au ho'ōla  
E ulu, e pua, e mōhala, e ola  
Ka Wahine Ho'ōla ē  
'Ike 'ia nō 'oe lā  
He pua malihini o ka 'āina  
'O ka wai anuheha o ia pua  
Kāu wai lā'au ho'ōla  
Nou kēia lei pāpahi  
Hanohano ka u'i o Mānoa  
Na ka hua li'ili'i ke ola  
A 'olu ka la'i o Kalaupapa  
Puana 'ia ka inoa  
'O 'Alikā Pōkā ka ho'ōla  
Ohohia 'o Kalaupapa  
A 'olu'olu ihola ke ao

*The Kōkī wind dances there  
Over the cliff face of Kalaupapa  
Making a lei for the Healing Woman  
A renowned blossom of that land  
A deep black beauty  
Reliever of the stricken  
With the curative medicine  
Flourish, blossom, bloom, thrive  
The Healing Woman  
You are clearly seen  
A flower from far away  
And the sweet nectar of that blossom  
Is the healing medicine you created  
For you is this lei of honor  
Noble is the beauty of Mānoa  
The tiniest of fruits can heal  
Comforting the peace of Kalaupapa  
Let the name be told  
Alice Ball is the healer  
Kalaupapa is enthusiastic  
And there is comfort in the world*

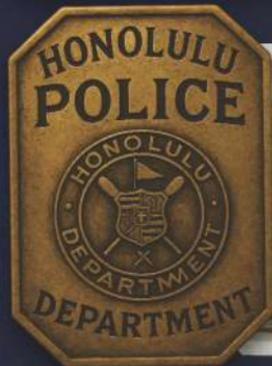
**Credits:** Lead Singer/Songwriter, Producer: Māhealani Uchiyama. Hawaiian Language Resource: Dr. Puakea Nogelmeier. Backup Vocals, Lead/Rhythm Guitar: Danny Carvalho. Backup Vocals: Nani Carvalho. Bass: Nathaniel Māhealani Stillman. Produced, Mixed, Mastered and Engineered by Dave Tucciarone.



## Honolulu Police Department

*Peter Hose 1881 - 1925*

- Family came from Cape Verde (off the Western coast of Africa).
- Fluent in English, Portuguese and Hawaiian.
- First officer of African descent to join the Honolulu Police Department.
- Became known for the unique way he directed traffic.
- Called the "Hula Cop" because of what he called the "traffic hula".
- Also told jokes to those waiting for pedestrians and had a good singing voice.
- Actor Charlie Chaplin took time to admire his moves during a visit to Hawai'i.
- Entertained thousands of people.



# Kumuniu Cumbia

Words and music by Kaulike Pescaia

‘O Pekelo, ‘o Pekelo, ‘o Pekelo

Pekelo Hose

Aia i Honolulu

Ke kumuniu lō‘ihi

Kaulana i ke ki‘eki‘e

Mahalo ‘ia e ka lehulehu

I ka makani, makani aheahe

Māewa nei ka launiu

Ho‘ohau‘oli ‘ia ka po‘e

I ke kumuniu lō‘ihi

He mea waiwai no nā kanaka

Ka wai niu ma‘ema‘e loa

He pahu, he ‘eke, he pāpale ho‘i

He kaula, he ‘apu, a he pila

Ha‘ina mai ka puana

No ke kumuniu lō‘ihi

Kaulana i ke ki‘eki‘e

Mahalo ‘ia e ka lehulehu

*Peter, Peter, Peter,*

*Peter Hose*

*In Honolulu*

*Is the tall coconut tree*

*Famous for it's height*

*Admired by the multitudes*

*In the wind, the gentle wind*

*The coconut fronds sway*

*The people are made happy*

*By the coconut tree*

*(The coconut tree holds) Such*

*importance to the people,*

*The pristine coconut water*

*A drum, a basket, a hat,*

*Cordage, a bowl, and an instrument*

*Tell the refrain*

*Of the tall coconut tree*

*Famous for its height*

*Admired by the multitudes*

**Credits:** Lead Singer/Songwriter: Kaulike Pescaia. All Instrumentation/Vocals: Kaulike Pescaia. Producer/Engineer: Kaulike Pescaia. Producer: Mahealani Uchiyama. Mixed and Mastered by: Dave Tucciarone.



"Equity and inclusion is so important for our generations to come. Honoring our lāhui and those of other lāhui (cultures) are what brings us together." - Kamakēhau Fernandez

# He Mele Awaiaulu Nō Hawai'i Ha'aheo

Words and melody by Kamakāhau Fernandez

Kū ha'aheo nō kākou  
I nā loina o nā kūpuna  
Hali'ali'a wale aku ka mana'o  
O ke aloha e  
Nā hanohano o ke aupuni  
Nā Hulu kūpuna  
Nā Ali'i o Hawai'i nei  
E ola mau

'Onipa'a  
'Alulike  
Imua e nā pōki'i  
A inu i ka wai 'awa'awa

He kama no ka pae 'āina  
O Hawai'i Nei  
O ka 'āina aloha  
Aloha 'āina oi'ai'o

We stand together as one  
In this sacred place  
Not caring of race  
We all have place

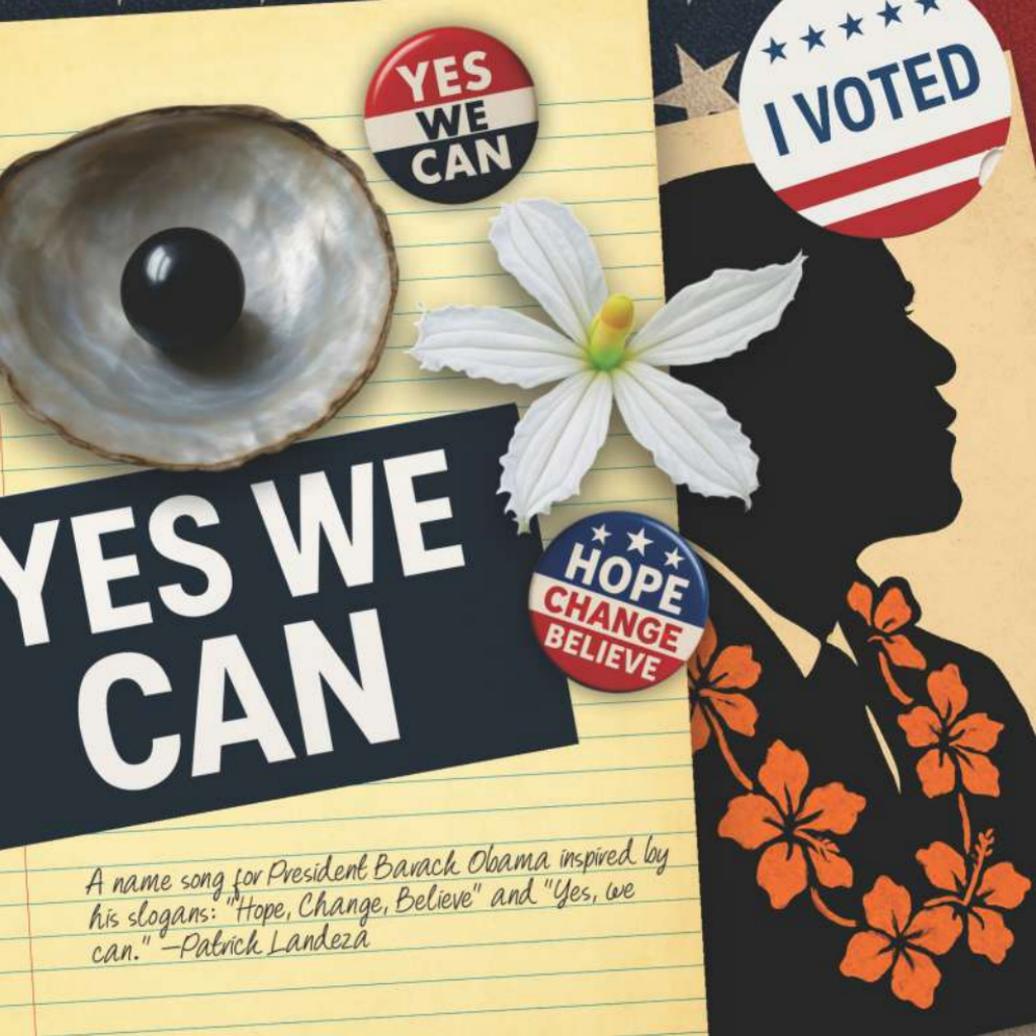
E nā kini o ka 'āina  
E nā mamo o Hawai'i nei  
E 'auamo pū kākou  
I ulu i ke kumu  
He lei pōina'ole ke keiki  
He makamae  
Kūpa'a nō ka pono  
Nō ka lāhui o Hawai'i

*We all stand proud  
Nurturing the lessons of our ancestors  
Reminiscing fond memories  
Of love  
From our monarch in the Kingdom  
To our beloved elders  
To all kings and queens of Hawai'i  
May they reign forever more*

*Steadfast  
Unity  
March forward  
And drink of the bitter water*

*We are children of the islands  
Of Hawai'i  
The land of love  
True love for the land*

*Dear stewards of the land  
People of Hawai'i  
Let's unite together  
And grow from these lessons  
A beloved child is a lei never forgotten  
They are cherished  
Stand firm for righteousness  
For the people of Hawai'i*



**YES WE  
CAN**



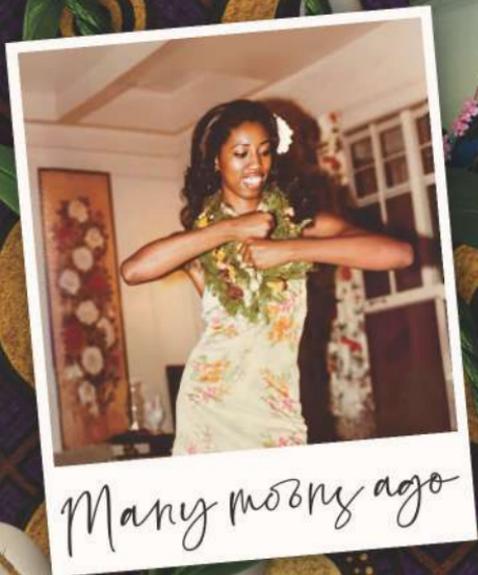
*A name song for President Barack Obama inspired by his slogans: "Hope, Change, Believe" and "Yes, we can." —Patrick Landeza*

# Ka Momi Hiwahiwa

Words and music by Patrick Landeza

He mele kēia nou e Obama  
Ka momi hiwahiwa o 'Amelika  
Mana'olana 'oe i ka pōmaika'i  
O ka lāhui me ke aupuni  
Koi i ka ho'ololi 'ana i ke au hou  
I ka no'ono'o 'ana me ka hana pono  
Ua hilina'i a'e 'oe i ka nani  
O ka pu'uwai aloha o ke kanaka  
I ho'okahi wale nō kākou  
E holomua ana i ka huliau  
'Ae ē, ua hiki nō  
'Ae lā, e hiki ana nō  
He mele inoa no President Barack Obama  
Ka momi hiwahiwa o 'Amelika

*This song is for you President Obama  
The esteemed black pearl of America  
You have enduring hope for the prosperity  
Of the American people and our nation  
Urging for change in these new times  
In the way we think and act  
You have always believed in the beauty  
Of the aloha-filled hearts of mankind  
When we come together as one  
We will move forward in this time of change  
Yes, it can be done  
Yes, it will be done  
A name song for President Barack Obama  
The esteemed black pearl of America*



Māhealani—Malani—glows with sacred light, turning night into day. It is the 16th moon, the final breath of fullness in the Hawaiian cycle.



# Māhealani

Words and music by Kawika Alfiche

I ka nani o ke ano ahiahi  
Hulali mai ka lani mai  
Pā mai kōnane a ka mahina  
Māhealani ano`ai ke aloha  
Kaulana ka moku `o `Okalana  
Lana mai ka mauna `o Kilikona  
Kili mai like ka ua Tuahine  
I ka hine i ke ano ahiahi  
Eia kou wehi no nā kau a kau  
Kau mai no ua lohe mai  
Māhealani nani mai ho`i kau  
Kaulana, popohe i ka lani  
Kaulana, popohe i ka lani

*In the beauty of this still evening  
Basking in the essence of the heavens  
Beautiful, clearly seen from a far  
Māhealani, open to all who admire  
All know this famous land  
The island floating above the clouds  
Misty rains surround like the Tuahine  
In the splendor of eve  
Your lei to bear for all seasons to come  
Placed here to be heard by all  
Māhealani, exquisitely placed here  
Tranquil moon, perfectly fitted in the heavens  
Tranquil moon, perfectly fitted in the heavens*

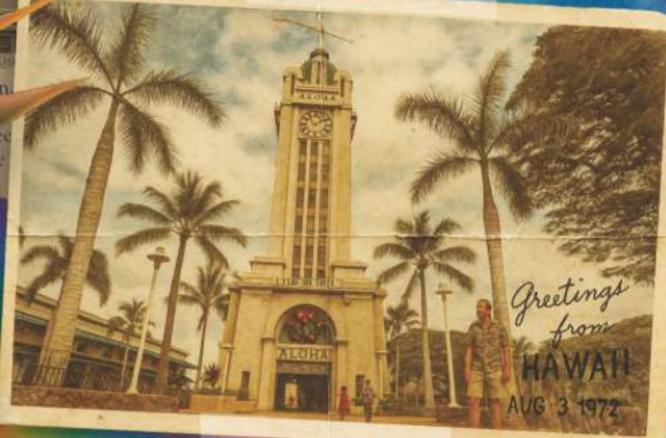
# TRIBUNE TOWER

landmark in Downtown Oakland

Azuro McCall is known as Hawaii's first Lady of Jazz. She is from Oakland and lived in Hawaii for over 40 years. She writes from her contemporary experience, and sees her home inclusive of the Bay Area and Hawaii.



## OAKLAND JAZZ



# I Am Where I Belong

Words and music by Azure McCall

He mele aloha kēia no ku'u home  
*(This is a song of love for my home)*  
Mai ka wēkiu o Tamalpai  
*(From the summit of Tamalpais)*  
I kahakai 'o Pu'u'uloa  
*(To the shores of Pu'u'uloa (Pearl Harbor))*

Love to all my fellow travelers  
On a road without a map  
Faith gave me my credentials  
Can you imagine that?

From Oakland to experiences  
Far beyond belief  
Strange new lands, and friends abroad  
And life beyond the reef

I know about moving mountains  
Familiar with mustard seeds  
Eating lū'au leaves,  
Marrakesh, Teni and me

Bloomed like a rainbow  
Growth I could not believe  
Love light, good energy  
And now pōpolo seeds

I am where I belong  
I am where I belong  
I am where I belong  
Like that feeling when you're home

Through life's eyes, not mine I see  
That hear with ears not known to me  
Mauna Kea seemed impossible to climb  
I remember looking down and thinking nothing's too high

I am where I belong  
I am where I belong  
I am where I belong  
Like the entrance to a song

Withered storms with his love to keep me warm  
Blessed testament, African descent  
See, I've lived a thousand years on  
The shoulders of my peers

And I sing songs to soothe the soul  
Try do what is fair  
I've come to know the truth  
Life brought me here not there

I am where I belong  
I am where I belong  
I am where I belong  
Like that feeling when you're home  
Like the entrance to a song

I am where I belong  
I am where I belong  
I am where I belong  
Like that feeling when you're home  
Like the entrance to a song

**Credits:** Lead Singer/Songwriter, Arranger/Producer: Azure McCall. Keyboard: Spencer Allen. Drumset: Randall Merritt. Myridanga: Sanjeev Palamand. Bass: Ron Belcher. Producer / Opening chant composition and performance: Mahealani Uchiyama. Backup vocals: Spencer Allen. Produced, Mixed, Mastered and Engineered by Dave Tucciarone.

# CREDITS

## **Maheua Uchiyama Center for International Dance**

**Board of Directors** Sharada Bose, Edwarao Madril, Patrick Makuakane, Mosheh Milon Sr.,  
Suhaila Salimpour

## **Administrative Team**

Lori Cheatham, Alison Hurley

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Graduation portrait of Alice Ball - University of Washington Tyee Yearbook 1911 - 12  
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Some images and graphics are created by AI and inspired by actual events

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Pöpoloheno  
Songs of Resilience and Joy