

MĀHEALANI  UCHIYAMA



Pōpoloheno

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, Spencer 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,
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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.
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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 Farey, and our beautiful
children Hoku Uchiyama, Anna Mkhikian and Emily Dunster-Farey.

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

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

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

Repeat

He kama ho‘i
He kama lei
Ka maka kēhau

*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*

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

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

Lead Singer/Songwriter: Kalani Pe'a. Backup vocals: Michael Casil. Lead/Rhythm Guitar and Bass: Wailau Ryder.
Co-producer: Allan B. Cool-Pe'a. Co-producer: Māhealani Uchiyama. Music Engineer / Co-producer: Michael Casil
of iVibe Productions. Mixed and Mastered by Dave Tucciarone.



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

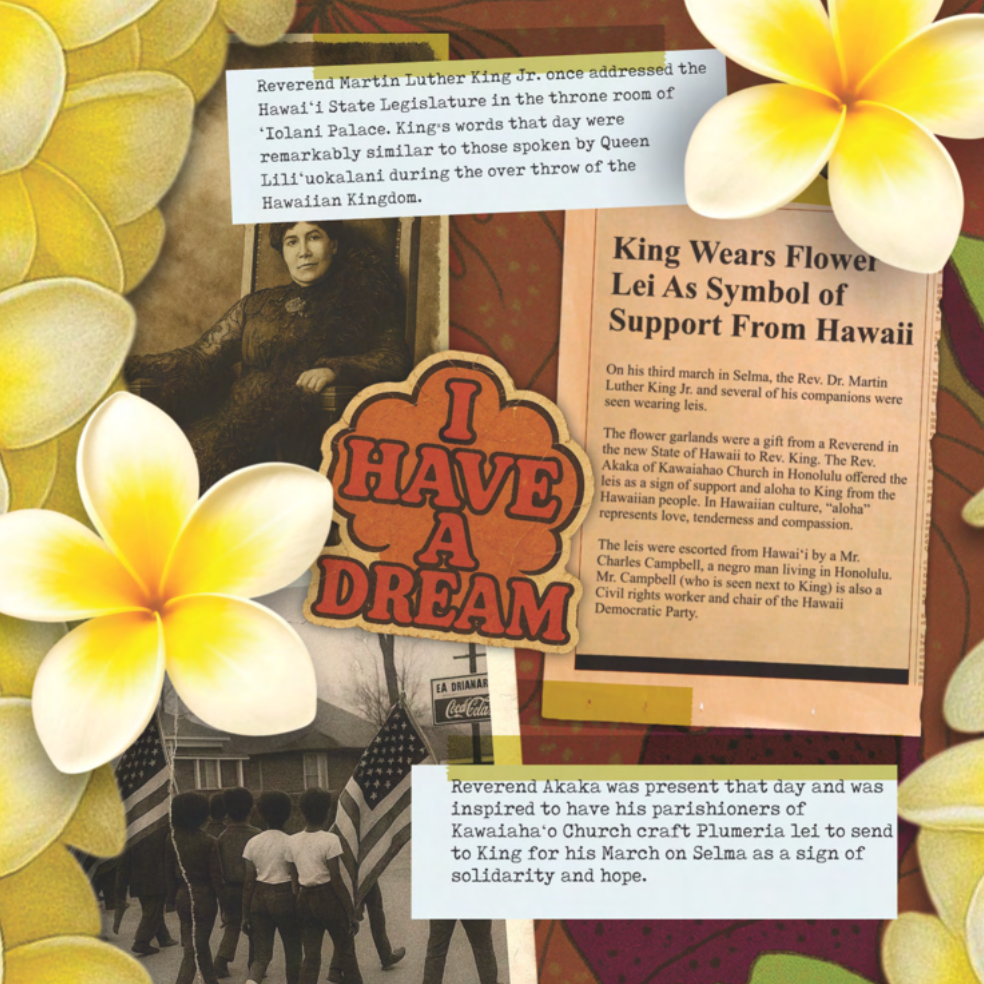
A freedom fighter for Hawai‘i
He searched far and wide through the globe
For the Kanaka

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.

I
HAVE
A
DREAM

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'aoheo"
"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 nō kēia
No Waine'e
Me ka la'i o Moku'ula
He nani wale nō
Kamaha'o ka 'ikena
O ka niu a me ke kōu
Ho'okipa i ka malihini
He nani wale nō
Ha'ina ka puana
'O Betsey kou inoa
Ke kumu a'o o Lahaina
He nani wale nō
'Akali no a hele pu"
He nani wale nō

*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

'Aulēa wale ana 'oe e
E ka Pua Laulele
I hānau ma ke kuapa'a
A kū mai i ke kū'oko'a
Ho'ohenō 'oe, e ka pua la
Ke kumu a'o no ka lehulehu
He lei pāpahi ho'i 'oe
No kākou a pāu
'Au ho'i 'oe i ke kai loa e
He 'ale'ale a po'ina nalu
A luana i ka maluhia
I ka malu 'ulu o Lahaina
Ho'okipa maila 'o Kalani e
'O Kalani Kualiholiho
'O ka maka mua 'oe o kou 'ano
He wahine 'Aferica i Hawai'i
Pā ka mānani Ma'a'a
A lū ka 'ano'ano i nā 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
Kalani 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 Tucciaron.



Alice Ball (1892 - 1916)



First woman and first African American to graduate with an MS degree in chemistry from the college of Hawai'i (now known as the University of Hawai'i). 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 Hawai'i, 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.



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 anuheā 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 Mahealani 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." - Kamakāhau Fernandez

He Mele Awaiaulu Nō Hawai'i Ha'aheo

Words and melody by Kamakakēhau 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

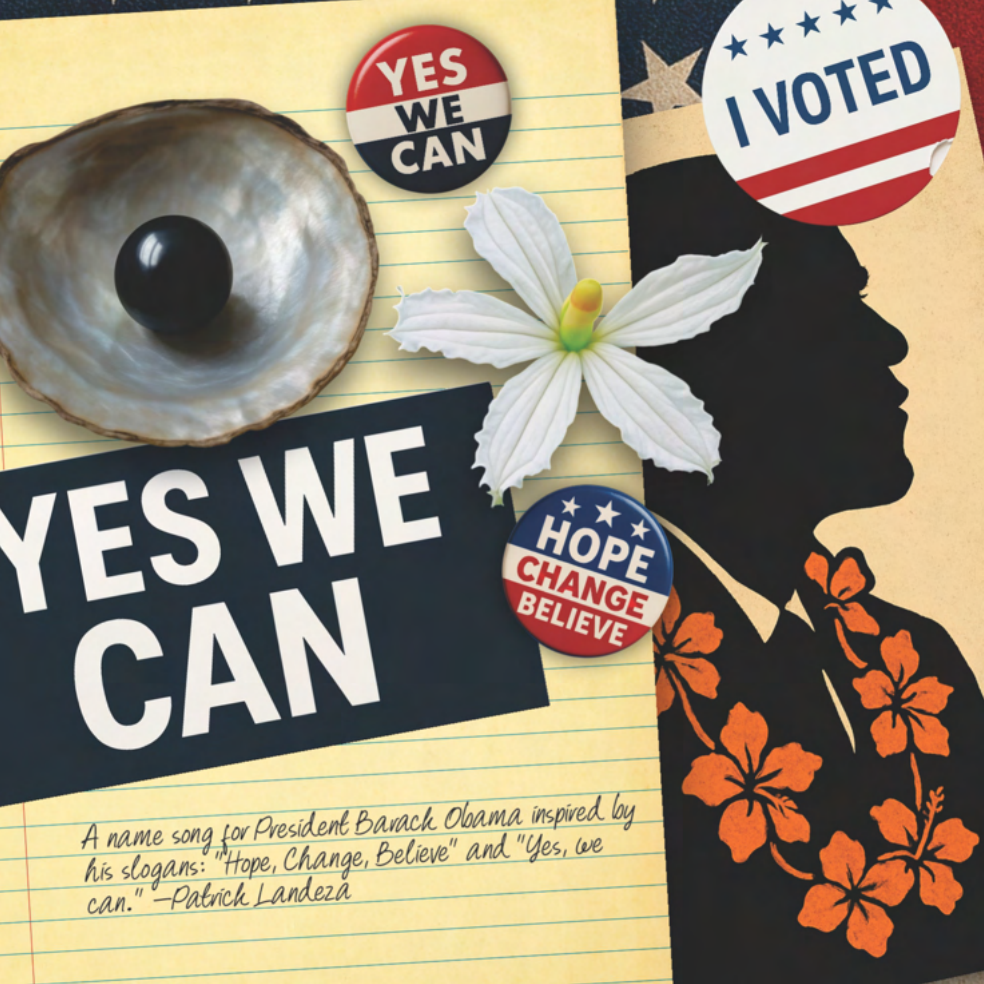
*We all stand proud
Nurturing the lessons of our ancestors
Reminiscing fond memories
Of love
From our monarch in the Kingdom
To our beloved elders
To all kings and queens of Hawai'i
May they reign forever more*

*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*

Credits: Lead Singer/Songwriter, Percussion (Pahu): Kamakakēhau Fernandez. Produced, Mixed, Mastered and Engineered by Dave Tucciarone. Co-Producer: Māhealani Uchiyama.



**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*

Credits: Lead Singer/Songwriter/Slack Key Guitar: Patrick Landeza. Co-songwriter: Kellen Paik. Steel Guitar: Justin Firmeza. Engineer: Forrest Lawrence. Mixed and Mastered by Dave Tucciarone. Producer: Māhealani Uchiyama.



Many moons ago



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*

Credits: Lead Singer/Songwriter, 'Ukulele: Kawika Alfiche. Engineer: Edgar Benitez. Mixed and Mastered by Dave Tucciarone. Producer: Māhealani Uchiyama. Producer: Māhealani Uchiyama.

TRIBUNE TOWER

landmark in Downtown Oakland

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



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'uloa
(To the shores of Pu'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

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Halau Ka Ua Tuahine

