

Ka`a Ahi Kahului

Words and Music By: Palani Vaughan

☞ Source: In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the steam locomotive found its way into countless musical cultures throughout the world. Musicians integrated its distinctive rhythms into their playing, singers and harmonica players imitated its many sounds, composers celebrated its remarkable capacity to link distant communities or conjure up adventure. July 29, 1879, marked the arrival of passenger train service to Hawai'i, when the Kahului Railroad Company of Maui began running from Kahului to Wailuku.

Because King David Kalākaua encouraged railroad construction in Hawai'i, Kalākaua-era enthusiast Palani Vaughan wrote this song in the early 1970s. The second verse honors King Kalākaua and the chorus contains the onomatopoeic phrase, "chuku chuku" to simulate the sound of the engine. The rhythm recreates the steady beat of a train as it runs across the rails kuehu aku ma ke alahao (stirring up dust along the track). (notes from DancingCat.Com)

Sample Song List:

- Palani Vaughan, Palani Vaughan's Best with the King's Own - Vol I, 1993
- Ledward Ka'apana, Led Live Solo, 1994
- Kahua, Mali'o e, 2002
- Brian Tolentino, Ka Ukulele Lele, 2005
- Keoki Kahumoku & Herb Ohta, Jr, Hawaiian From The Heart, 2000
- Hau'ula, Na Mele 'Ohana,
- Cyril Pahinui, 'Ia 'Oe E Ka La - Helu 'Ekahi - Vol. 1
- Bruddah Waltah, Ka Ho`ina, 1997
- Troy Fernandez, Cruzin' Island Style (DVD),
- Troy Fernandez, Hawaiian Style Ukulele, 2005
- Makapu'u Sand Band, Makapu'u Sand Band, 1996
- I Ku Mau Mau, I Ku Mau Mau, 2004

Ka`a Ahi Kahului

♪ Intro ~ G7 /// G /// G7 /// G /// ♪

Verse:

G
| Eia ka mo`olelo | pōkole | *Here is the short story*
D7 **G** **G7**
| No ke ka`a ahi mua | o Hawai`i Nei | *About the first train in Hawai`i*
C **G**
| Chūkū-chūkū maila | Chūkū-chūkū maila | *Choo-choo here,
Choo-choo there*
D7 **C**
| Ko`ehu (kuehu) aku ma ke ala-|-hao | *Stirring dust along the tracks*
~~ Repeat ~~

Hui:

Chorus:

G7 **G**
| Wū-wū | Ka`a Ahi Kahului | *Woo-woo! Kahului Railroad*
D7
| Ke alahao a i Wai-|-luku | *Tracks all the way to Wailuku*
G7 **G**
| Wu-wu | Ka`a Ahi Kahului | *Woo-woo! Kahului Railroad*
D7 **G**
| Chūkū-chūkū mua o Ha-|-wai`i | *The first train of Hawai`i*

♪ Turnaround D7 G ♪

♪ Instrumental Bridge of Verse and turnaround or Pa`ani ♪

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Additional Verses:

Hūlō, Hūlō, no Ka Lani e	<i>Hurrah! Hurrah! for the chief</i>
No Ka Lani `O Kalā- -kaua	<i>For the chief, Kalākaua</i>
Ke mea i kākau kona inoa	<i>The one who signed his name</i>
Ma ka Palapalano ka chūkū-chūkū	<i>On the Act for the Railroad</i>

Lohe mai e nā keiki hānau o ka `āina	<i>Listen, oh children of the land</i>
Lohe mai i ka mo`olelo chūkū	<i>Listen to the train story</i>
A i ko `oukou Ka Lani hope	<i>And (hear) about your last King</i>
Ka mea i kākau kona i- -noa	<i>The one who signed his name</i>

Performance Notes: This a fun song with a driving up-tempo choo-choo beat and sound effects -- thumps, slides, bends -- to create the sound and feel of riding on the old sugar cane train to Kahului.

Ukulele Basic Chords (C Tuning – GCEA)

<p>I = G Major</p> <p>Root G (I)</p> <p>F Chord Form</p>	<p>I7 = G7</p> <p>Root G7 (I7)</p> <p>G7 Chord Form</p>	<p>IV = C Major</p> <p>Root C (IV)</p> <p>C Chord Form</p>	<p>V7 = D7</p> <p>Root D7 (V7)</p> <p>C7 Chord Form</p>
<p>Inversion G (I)</p> <p>D Chord Form</p>	<p>Inversion G7 (I7)</p> <p>E7 Chord Form</p>	<p>Inversion C (IV)</p> <p>A Chord Form</p>	<p>Inversion D7 (V7)</p> <p>A7 Chord Form</p>