

Pua 'Ōlena

Pua 'ōlena, pua moe wale
 I ka nanele e moe nei
 Ka ua noe makali'i
 E ala mai, hō'ike mai i kou nani
 Pua 'ōlena, pua 'ōlena

'Ōlena flower, blossom that sleeps
 In the forest, slumbering
 The fine, misty rains appear
 Awaken, display your beauty
 'Ōlena flower, 'ōlena flower

Pua 'ōlena, dream filled beauty
 Of my garden deep in slumber
 Kissed by misty summer rain
 Come with me, come let's see of your beauty
 Pua 'ōlena, pua 'ōlena

Lau 'ōlena, lau pālulu
 E pe'e nei kau mōhala
 'O ka makani hāwanawana
 Hō'ike nei, pua 'ōlena, i kou nani
 Pua 'ōlena, pua 'ōlena

'Ōlena leaf, sheltering
 Your blossoming forth is concealed
 The wind whispers to you
 'Ōlena flower, show your beauty
 'Ōlena flower, 'ōlena flower

Ha'ina mai ka puana
 Pua moe wale, pua moe 'ole
 I ka nanele o Hanalei
 Come with me, come let's see of your beauty
 Pua 'ōlena, pua 'ōlena

The story is in the refrain
 Of the slumbering flower
 not really asleep
 In the forest of Hanalei
 Come with me, come let's see of
 your beauty
 'Ōlena flower, 'ōlena flower

The 'ōlena blossom hides under the thickness of its own leaves, emerging to be seen only briefly during its flowering span, then returning to dormancy in this song by James Kalei Kaholokula, Sr. The choice of a particular flower is an effective metaphor in Hawaiian poetry, allowing particular attributes to invoke images or imply kaona.