

Key: F Tempo: 160 BPM

# Hawaiian War Chant

(Kāua I Ka Huahua‘i)

Lyrics: Prince William Pitt Leleiōhoku

Composer: Johnny Noble

Intro: G7/2 C7/2 F/4

All: G7/2 C7/2 F/2 F7/2

Backup vocals: harmonize underline

*Back-beat strum*

Bb/4 F/4 C7/4 F/2 F7/2 Bb/4 F/4 C7/4 F/2 C+/2

Au--wē ta hua‘i lā, au---wē ta hua‘i lā

*Regular strum*

Oh, such spray

You and I in the spray  
Such joy, the two of us together  
Embracing tightly in the coolness  
Breathing deep of the palai fern

Sources: huapala.org,  
Kanahele, "Hawaiian Music and Musicians."

2x {

F/12  
Tāua lā i ta huahua‘i lā

F7/4  
E ‘uhene lā i pili to‘olua lā

Bb/4 F/4  
Pututu‘i lua i te to‘eto‘e

C7/4 F/2 1: C7/2  
Hanu lipo o ta palai

2: F7/2

*Back-beat strum*

Bb/4 F/4 C7/4 F/2 F7/2 Bb/4 F/4 C7/4 F/2 C+/2

Au--wē ta hua‘i lā, au---wē ta hua‘i lā

*Faster, Tempo 172*

*Regular strum*

2x {

F/12  
Tāua lā i ta huahua‘i lā

F7/4  
E ‘uhene lā i pili to‘olua lā

Bb/4 F/4  
Pututu‘i lua i te to‘eto‘e

C7/4 F/2 1: C7/2  
Hanu lipo o ta palai

2: F7/2

*Back-beat strum*

Bb/4 F/4 C7/4 F/2 F7/2 Bb/4 F/4 C7/8 F/12 F/1 C7/1 F/1 Rest/1

Au--wē ta hua‘i lā, au---wē ta hua‘i ē

Rest/4

Bb/4 F/4 C7/4 F/2 F7/2 Bb/4 F/4 C7/8 F/12 F/1 C7/1 F/1

Au--wē ta hua‘i lā, au---wē ta hua‘i ē

This is a love ballad by Prince William Pitt Leleiōhokukalaho‘olewa (1854-1877), the brother of King David Kalākaua, Queen Liliuokalani and Princess Miriam Likelike. His name, "flight on the day of the full moon", commemorates the funeral of Kamehameha III. A gifted composer, it was believed he would have been a wise king had he not died prematurely of rheumatic fever, at age 22. In the 1940’s, there was a parody based on this mele titled “Ta Ha Ua La.” It was given English lyrics, an upbeat tempo and popularized by Spike Jones singing the lyrics in a guttural tone. It became known as the “Hawaiian War Chant” and is often confused with “Kāua I Ka Huahua‘i,” the original song.

