



Kananaka

^C 'Ō ka pā mai a ka Ma'a'a
^{G7} ^C Halihali mai ana lā i ke 'ala
^F ^C Ke 'ala onaona o ka līpoa
^{G7} ^C Hana 'oe a kani pono

The blowing of the Ma'a'a wind
 Bears with it a fragrance
 A sweet scent of the līpoa seaweed
 Get it until you are satisfied



^C ^F ^C Nani wale ia pu'e one
^{G7} ^C ^{G7} ^C I ka nalu he'e mai a'o Kananaka
^F ^C Kahi a mākou i he'e ai
^{G7} ^C I ka 'ehu'ehu o ke kai

chorus:
 Beautiful is that stretch of sand
 With the surf break of Kananaka
 Where we have ridden the waves
 There amid the spray of the sea

^C ^F ^C 'Ō ka mahina hiki aloalo
^{G7} ^C ^{G7} ^C Ho'ola'ila'i ana lā i nā pali
^F ^C Pōhina wehiwehi i ke onaona
^{G7} ^C Koni ma'e'ele i ke kino

The moon rises to its zenith in the sky
 Poised aloft here above the cliffs
 A silvery gleam, lush with fragrance
 Bringing a throb and a tingle to the body

This hula often performed as a hula noho, or sitting dance, is about the mermaid Kananaka who lived in the surf outside of Lahaina. Mermaids did not exist in traditional Hawaiian lore, and Kananaka may be an innovation inspired by the whalers' tales in Lahaina. Maui elders credit this song to Kauhailikua, a court dancer for Kalākaua and grandmother of Eddie Kamae. Kauhailikua taught hula to Emma Sharpe and Pua Lindsey. 1915.