



Pua Līlia

^G
‘Auhea wale ‘oe e ka ua
 Ke nihi a‘e nei i nā pali ^{D7}
 Ka helena o ia pua i ‘ako ‘ia
 Ke popohe mai nei ia uka ^{D+} ^{G D7}
 Ia uka ho‘i a‘u e walea ai ^G
 Ke ‘ala onaona o ku‘u pua ^{G7} ^C
 He pua ‘oe na‘u e lei mau ai ^{Cm} ^G ^{E7}
 Ke ‘ala ku‘u pua līlia ^{A7} ^{D7} ^G

Where could you be, oh rain
 Moving softly over the cliffs
 The appearance of this flower which was chosen
 Blossoming forth in the highlands
 Those lofty heights where I enjoyed
 The sweet perfume of my sweet bloom
 You are a flower to always wear as my lei
 The sweet scent of my lily blossom

Alfred U. ‘Alohikea wrote this in 1916. George Kanahale’s Hawaiian Music and Musicians is a excellent source for those seeking a deeper technical understanding of Hawaiian music, as evidenced by his comments on Pua Līlia. “‘Alohikea’s compositions are characteristically Hawaiian in expression....[Pua Līlia] has a very wide range marked by large leaps which enable the Hawaiian singer to use the much-admired quality of “breaking” the voice, produced by changing voice registers... He also leads into a phrase by a half-step movement upward which is contrasted to larger intervallic leaps that follow. This contrasting pattern clearly reveals ‘Alohikea’s skill as a composer who knew what was pleasing to the Hawaiian ear... He uses the familiar device of grouping three notes together, occasionally five, ending on a prolonged pitch. If musically ‘Alohikea’s songs sound more Hawaiian than others, it is attributable partly to his philosophy of composition and partly to his understanding of his Hawaianness.” (Kanahale 15)