

Pua 'Ōlena

Pua 'ōlena, pua moe wale

I ka nahele e moe nei

Ka ua noe makali'i

E ala mai, hō'ike mai i kou nani

Pua 'ōlena, pua 'ōlena

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

Ha'ina mai ka puana

Pua moe wale, pua moe 'ole

I ka nahele o Hanalei

Come with me, come let's see of your beauty

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

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

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.