

Aloha Hawai'i

Aloha Hawai'i ku'u 'āina
Ku'u hae kalāunu pōina 'ole.

Lei ānuenuē kau mai i luna
Ka 'ano'i o nā moku 'ewalu.

Ha'aheo i ka nani o nā 'ailana
Ua lei 'ia a puni ka honua.

Ha'ina 'ia mai ana ka puana
Ku'u hae kalāunu pōina 'ole.

Translation

Beloved is Hawai'i, my land,
My sovereign banner is unforgettable.

Like a lei of rainbows placed on high,
The desire of the eight islands.

Proud is the glory of the islands
Worn as a lei the world over.

The story is told:
My sovereign flag is unforgotten.

Composed by Robert Kamaunu, a musician, arranger and composer of renown in the early 20th century. The Hawai'ian flag is sometimes called "hae kalāunu" or "crown flag" because of the Union Jack of Britain's crowned sovereign and those crowned sovereigns of the former Hawai'ian Kingdom. This term is affectionate and emotional, especially those days following the annexation of Hawai'i to the United States of America. This song tells that the Hawai'ian flag is precious and beautiful, like a rainbow over Hawai'i. Translated by Kimo Alama.