

Hilo Hanakahi

na Keola Naumu

Hilo Hanakahi
i ka ua Kanilehua

*Hilo of Hanakahi
in the Kanilehua rain*

Puna paia ‘ala
i ka paia ‘ala i ka hala

*Puna of the fragrant bowers
bowers fragrant with hala*

Ka‘ū i ka makani
i ka makani kuehu lepo

*Ka‘ū in the wind
in the kuehu lepo wind*

Kona i ke kai
i ke kai mā‘oki‘oki

*Kona by the sea
the streaked seas*

Kawaihae i ke kai
i ke kai hāwanawana

*Kawaihae by the sea
the whispering sea*

Kohala i ka makani
i ka makani ‘Āpa‘apa‘a

*Kohala in the wind
the ‘Āpa‘apa‘a wind*

Waimea i ka ua
i ka ua Kīpu‘upu‘u

*Waimea in the rain
in the Kīpu‘upu‘u rain*

Hāmākua i ka pali
i ka pali lele koa‘e

*Hāmākua at the cliff
the cliff where the koa‘e fly*

Hā‘ina ka puana
i ka ua Kanilehua

*Tell the refrain
of the Kanilehua rain*

This *mele* names the important districts and places on the island of Hawai‘i. Each place name is followed by a noted natural attribute (rain, wind, sea, pandanus...).

Hilo: Hanakahi was a famous chief of Hilo. Hilo Hanakahi is also a section of Hilo towards Keaukaha. Kanilehua is a famous rain of Hilo, a rain that gives drink to lehua flowers.

Puna: Puna was known for its *hala* (pandanus) groves and their strong scent. In the olden days, they would stick bracts of *hala* in the thatching of their houses (*paia* – wall) to bring some of the fragrance indoors.

Ka‘ū: Ka‘ū is a very windy district. Kuehulepo is the name of a wind of Nā‘ālehu, Ka‘ū, a wind that scatters the dirt.

Kona: Kona has various phrases referring to the ocean. *Kai mā‘oki‘oki* refers to the streaks on the surface of the ocean that you can see when viewing the ocean from the slopes above.

Kawaihae: Kawaihae is in the Kohala district. This verse talks about the whispering seas of Kohala.

Waimea: Waimea is also in the Kohala district. Kīpu‘upu‘u is a chilly rain (and wind) in Waimea. It is also the name of a group of warriors from Waimea in Kamehameha Nui’s time.

Kohala: Kohala is another windy district. ‘Āpa‘apa‘a is the name of a strong wind in Kohala.

Hāmākua: Hāmākua district is known for its tall cliffs (*pali*).