

Kaulana Kūkuluae‘o
na Kanohoanu

Kāhea: ‘Ae, Kaulana Kūkuleae‘o

Kaulana Kūkuluae‘o i ka ae‘o
Ma ke ālia pa‘akai i noho ai
Lā ‘eā, ‘eā lā ‘eā

Kūkuluae‘o,¹ the reknowned home of the ae‘o²
They lived near the salt ponds

Kani le‘a e ka leo o ka ‘elepaio
He hō‘ailona ho‘i na ke kālai wa‘a
Lā ‘eā, ‘eā lā ‘eā

The joyful sound of ‘elepaio³
Forewarns canoe carvers⁴

Hanohano wale nō ‘o ka pālila
Inu wai i ka liko pua māmane
Lā ‘eā, ‘eā lā ‘eā

The pālila⁵ are honored
Drinking nectar of young māmane⁶ blossoms

Lele a‘ela ka ‘ua‘u i ke kai
‘Imi ana i nā ‘ono o ka moana
Lā ‘eā, ‘eā lā ‘eā

The ‘ua‘u⁷ glides above the sea
Searching for ocean delicacies

Puana e ka u‘i o nā manu like ‘ole
Kīkaha i ka wena ‘ula o ke ao
Lā ‘eā, ‘eā lā ‘eā

The beauty of these birds is incomparable
Soaring in the rosy glow of the sunrise

Kāhea: He mele kēia no nā manu like ‘ole o Hawai‘i

¹ Kūkuluae‘o is a section of land in Kaka‘ako, which was home to a large population of ae‘o.

² Hawaiian stilt bird (also known as Kūkuleae‘o), scientific name: *Himantopus mexicanus knudseni*.

³ Scientific name: Chasiempis, they are known for the distinct sound they make.

⁴ ‘Elepaio eat insects in koa trees, and, by watching their behavior, canoe carvers know whether or not a tree would make a good canoe. If many ‘elepaio peck the tree for insects, the tree is not suitable.

⁵ Scientific name: *Loxioides bailleui*.

⁶ Māmane is an endemic shrub with yellow cluster flowers. The shape of the pālila’s beak is used to get to the immature seeds of the māmane.

⁷ Hawaiian pertrel, scientific name: *Pterodroma sandwichensis*.