

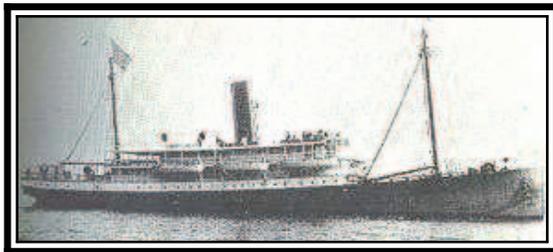
Name-places mentioned in “Ka Huaka‘i”



Lā'au Point, Kaiwi Channel in foreground, Kalohi Channel beyond. *(Robert Mondoy, 2010)*



Pālā'au and Kaunakakai wharf beyond it. West Maui (Lahaina is beyond the frame's right edge) in the distance. *(Robert Mondoy, 2011)*



Above: The Kilauea.

Right: Kamehameha V (Lot Kapuāiwa, 1830-1872) became ruler in 1863.

Ka Huaka'i

The Errand

Ia aloha iā Kīlauea
Lio kākele a 'o ka moana
Holo ma mua holo, ma hope

Kīlauea, beloved ship, sea-roving steed
roams this ocean full-steam ahead.
backing and hauling, then the voyage home.

Kau pono ka ihu i ka makani
Haki nu'a ka uahi i ke kai
Nome a'e ka huila ma lalo
Hala 'ē ka lae o Kalā'au
'Oni ana Moloka'i ma mua
Huli a'e ē ke alo i Lahaina
He ukana kā Kīlauea
Lū a'ela i Pālā'au
Ho'okahi pahuna ma lalo

Now *Kīlauea's* prow heads into the wind,
smoke breaks from stack, ripples over the sea,
paddle wheel slowly revolves,
passes Kalā'au Point, Moloka'i up ahead,
Lāhainā yonder awaiting freight,
and stops at Pālā'au to unload cargo,
heave-ho and shove down below.

Kohu 'āuna manu i ke one
Ka hoholo i ke ālialia
E 'ole 'o Ka Lani Mehameha
Ola ai nei pū'ā hipa
Nā hipa a Kama'ipu'upa'a

Like a flock of seabirds upon a waste of sand
a hungry horde races along this salt-encrusted shore.
Were it not for Chief Kamehameha
these creatures would be bereft of all supply,
would be as sheep without forage, no shepherd
were it not for life-bringing Kama'ipu'upa'a the Kahuna,
wise in matters of sickness, life and death.

'Ai ana i ka lau 'oliwa

Now let his famished flock feed on olive leaves
given with a King's love.

Ha'ina 'ia mai ka puana
No Ka Lani Mehameha he inoa

This is the end of my song
in praise of Chief Kamehameha.

(Translation by Mary Kawena Pukui,
in *The Echo Of Our Song*)

This anonymous chant from the 1860's-1870's commemorates a merciful errand in which Kamehameha V shipped to his workers at the royal ranch at Pālā'au badly needed supplies, including native medicines as well as food, on the royal steamer *Kīlauea*.¹³ Lot Kapuāiwa Kamehameha (1830-1872) ruled from 1863 to 1872 and his court often vacationed at his summer residence "Mālama" at Kaunakakai's seaside. Kama'ipu'upa'a was a famous female kahuna, who served in Kamehameha V's household, "a sorceress, doctress, and priestess; a nervous, magnetic woman, shrewd, intelligent, and adept to a wonderful degree."¹⁴ Her presence in the royal court surely irked the puritans and those who disdained pagan practices, but did reflect the belief of many at that time in the efficacy of traditional Hawaiian medicine and religious practices. While Kamehameha V's court was on Moloka'i Kama'ipu'upa'a lived in a house where the present Kala'ikamau Congregational church now stands.¹⁵ The mention of the olive branch refers to the biblical flood of Noah, when the return of a dove with an olive branch in its beak signaled the end of danger. While an adolescent on Moloka'i I visited the abandoned village of Pālā'au with our "Moloka'i Hawaiian Club" in 1964 with Zelig Duvauchelle Sherwood (1901-1992) as our docent. There were many artifacts, such as fish hooks, 'ulu maika, caldrons, and charcoal irons still there. We were also instructed that many of the families of Pālā'au relocated to Honolulu as the royal ranch declined.¹⁶