

Hīmeni O Kalaupapa

A7 D G D
Ma nā 'ae kai o Kalaupapa
G Em A
Kūlou kākou a ho'omana'o
D G D
'O ke kū pōhai mai o nā pali
Em A7 D
Pau ka 'ikena i ke ao 'āina

HUI (*not too fast*)

A7 D A7 D
Aloha 'ino, Aloha wale
G D A/E E7 A A7
Ko kākou one hānau
D G D Bm
E nonoi nui i ke Akua
Em7 Bm7 A7 G/D D
I kala iā a'e nei pilikia

Song of Kalaupapa

At the shores of Kalaupapa
We bow our heads and ponder
The steep encircling of the cliffs
That set the bounds of sight of the earthly
domain

Alas! There is nothing but love
This land of our birthplace
Always plead to God
That this travail be released

*Translation by Robert M. Mondoy & Puakea
Nogelmeier*



From the **Honolulu Star Bulletin**, July 8, 1972:

The music was never written down. It was only remembered from decade to decade. Miss Ethel M. Damon in her book on the Church at Siloama records how a former member of Kaunakapili Church, Samuel Kauwalu, put there for the dreaded disease, composed the hymn. She further notes how, "Often on a warm moonlit evening one hears them strumming 'ukuleles and singing among themselves, sometimes gaily, sometimes the homesick refrain of the Kalaupapa Song of Farewell."¹

This hymn was newly included in the 1972 Nā Hīmeni Haipule Hawai'i Hymnal. A choral arrangement by Herb Mahelona (b. 1967) was performed at the 2001 Kamehameha Schools Song Contest, bringing renewed interest in the hymn. (https://youtu.be/AVPZJdyhr_8) The arrangement in this publication is offered for solo and communal singing. The opening lines are imitative of Psalm 137, where the exiled Jewish community in Babylon sang: "By the shores of Babylon we sat and wept....how can we sing a song of Zion?"

The melody composer, George McLane (1883-1961) was a blind patient in Kalaupapa who also wrote "Bay View Home." Ernest Kala (1897-1980) was a Kalaupapa patient who served as a deacon and beloved musician at Kana'ana Hou ("New Canaan") Church there.²



Left: Ernest Kala, ca. 1970

Right: Kana'ana Hou Church, Kalaupapa, ca. 2009. (*courtesy of the National Parks Service*)

Ōlelo: Samuel Kauwalu (-) Leo: George McLane (1883-1961), 1910s-1930s. Arranged by rmm after Ernest Kala (1897-1980) and a transcription after Mrs. Mary Sing in *Nā Hīmeni Haipule Hawai'i*, (1972), No. 229. All typesets ©2019 Mondoy Music 1555 Pōhaku St. Apt. B-104 Honolulu HI 96817 (808) 845-8405. All rights reserved. Please contact before photocopying. *Mahalo!*