

KE AO NANI & HAWAIIAN PRONUNCIATION

Ukulele Tuesdays – Evergreen Library

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PLAYING MUSIC IS MORE THAN JUST MEMORIZING A BUNCH OF CHORDS ON YOUR INSTRUMENT.

That's difficult. And takes a long time.

KE AO NANI

- This is a classic lullaby song (or “mele”)
- Lyrics are in the Hawaiian language
- Sings about what the Hawaiians see during their every day lives
- Often used as a basic Hula song
 - Hula is an interpretive dance where the motions are directly related to the song’s story
 - Thus, hula to Ke Ao Nani display things like birds, flowers and the ocean



LYRICS

I luna lā i luna
Nā manu o ka lewa

I lalo lua i lalo
Nā pua o ka honua

I uka lā i uka
Nā ulu lā'au

I kai lā i kai
Nā i'a o ka moana

Ha'ina mai ka puana
A he nani ke ao nei

He inoa no nā kamali'i

Up, up above
Birds fly in the sky

Down, down
Flowers of the earth

Upland, up in the uplands
The grove of trees

In the sea, the sea
The fishes of the ocean

Tell the refrain
Of this beautiful world

In honor of the children

BASIC HAWAIIAN

The Hawaiian alphabet only has 12 letters

- Vowels: A, E, I, O, U
- Consonants: H, K, L, M, N, P, W

Letter	Sound	As in
A	“ah”	father
E	“eh”	bet, wet
I	“ee”	me, see
O	“oh”	go, low
U	“oo”	to, blue

Marking	Name	Meaning
ā, ē, ī, ō, ū	Kahakō	lengthens the vowel sound
‘	‘Okina	a guttural stop

Links

<https://hawaii.com/blog/learn-to-speak-hawaiian>

<https://www.yourdictionary.com/articles/hawaiian-language-basics>

BASIC HAWAIIAN

Example	Pronunciation	Meaning
aloha	ah – low - ha	hello/goodbye
a 'o ia	ah ooh ee-yah	there you go
e 'olu'olu	eh oh-loo oh-loo	please
no'u ka hau'oli	no-ooh kah ha-ooh oh-lee	you're welcome
moana	moe-ah-nah	ocean
luna	loo-nah	above
nā pua	naaah-poo-ah	flowers
ha'ina	ha ee-nah	tell us
puana	poo-ah-nah	refrain / story

LYRICS

Verse 1

C
I luna la i luna
G7 C
Namanu o ka lewa
C
I luna la i luna
G7 C G7C
Namanu o ka lewa

ee looo-na lah ee loooo-nah
nah mah-noo oh kah leh-wah
ee looo-na lah ee loooo-nah
nah mah-noo oh kah leh-wah

Verse 2

C
I lalo lua i lalo
G7 C
Napua o ka honua
C
I lalo lua i lalo
G7 C G7C
Napua o ka honua

ee laah-low loo-ah ee laah-low
nah poo-ah oh kah hoe-new-ah
ee laah-low loo-ah ee laah-low
nah poo-ah oh kah hoe-new-ah

Verse 3

C
I uka la i uka
G7 C
Na ulu la' au
C
I uka la i uka
G7 C G7C
Na ulu la' au

ee ooo-kah lah ee ooo-kah
nah ooo-loo lah' aah-ooo
ee ooo-kah lah ee ooo-kah
nah ooo-loo lah' aah-ooo

Verse 4

C
I kai la i kai
G7 C
Nai'a o kamoana
C
I kai la i kai
G7 C G7C
Nai'a o kamoana

ee kaah-eee lah ee kaah-eee
nah eee'aaa oh kah moe-ah-nah
ee kaah-eee lah ee kaah-eee
nah eee'aaa oh kah moe-ah-nah

LYRICS

Verse 5

C Ha'ina mai ka puana	hah 'ee-nah mah-eee kah poo-ah-nah
G7 C A he nani ke ao nei	Ah heh nah-nee keh ah-oo neh-ee
C Ha'ina mai ka puana	hah 'ee-nah mah-eee kah poo-ah-nah
G7 C G7C A he nani ke ao nei	Ah heh nah-nee keh ah-oo neh-ee

Ajoh recording:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8Y9FNF97jk>

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Poopy bad, 3/10/2026



QUESTIONS?