Hawaiʻi Ponoʻi

Hawaiʻi ponoʻi
Nānā i kou mōʻi
Ka lani aliʻi
Ke aliʻi

chorus:
Makua lani ʻē
Kamehameha ʻē
Na kaua e pale
Me ka ihe

Hawaiʻi ponoʻi
Nānā i nā aliʻi
Nā pua muli kou
Nā pōkiʻi

Hawaiʻi ponoʻi
E ka lāhui ʻē
ʻO kāu hana nui
E ui ʻē

Hawaiʻi's own
Be loyal to your chief
Your country's liege and lord
The aliʻi

Father above us all
Kamehameha
Who guarded in war
With his spear

Look to your lineal chiefs
These chiefs of latter birth
Younger siblings

People of loyal hearts
Thy only duty lies
Listen and abide

For the last two decades of the Hawaiian kingdom this was the national anthem. It continues
to be sung today, together with the Star Spangled Banner, at most public events in Hawaiʻi.
Its history is unusually well documented. Henry Berger, conductor of His Majesty's Band,
composed Hymn of Kamehameha for his inaugural concert in 1872. King Kalākaua put
these words to that music, and it was first sung in Kapiolani Church in 1874. In the original
musical score, "Nanai naʻi" used five syllables, as it was intended to be sung. When
standardized spelling is applied, 'nānā i nā aliʻi' appears to have seven syllables, although
those familiar with the conventions of spoken Hawaiian will know that the glides that
smoothly join vowels allow it to fit the same meter.