‘Imi Au Iā ‘Oe

‘Auhea wale ‘oe e ke aloha lā
E ka mea hō‘eha‘eha pu‘uwai
Na wai e ‘ole ke aloha lā
A he waiwai ua sila mua ‘ia

Where are you, oh my love
The one who pains the heart
Who could deny such a love?
A treasure, already bound by promise

chorus:
I search for you, my love
Amid the fragrant bowers of Puna
And where have you disappeared to?
Let us come back together again

A‘ohe kohukohu o ka ua lā
Ke pili mai me a‘u ka wahine u‘i
Aia ko‘u hoa a e kohu ai
‘O ka ‘i‘iwi hulu ‘ula o ka nahele

The rain has no attraction for me
When a beautiful woman is at my side
There is the appropriate companion for me
The red-feathered ‘i‘iwi of the forest

Also known as King’s Serenade, this Charles E. King song tells about a young man searching for his beloved lost in the Puna district. It was featured in the operetta Prince of Hawai‘i and was also the theme song of the movie Bird of Paradise in 1932 and 1951. It provides yet another example of the overlapping of Hawaiian songs, as Lili‘uokalani wrote a similar song entitled Ka ‘Imina A Ke Aloha, dated 1874, which Charles King published in 1916 as ‘Imi Au Ke Aloha.