Kaulana Nā Pua

Famous are the children of Hawai‘i
Loyal to the land
The evil hearted messenger comes
With a document of extortion and greed

Hawai‘i, island of Keawe, answers
The bays of Pā‘ili‘ani help
Kaua‘i of Mano lends support
Firmly united with the sands of
Kākahiheawa

Do not fix a signature
To the paper of the enemy
With its sin of annexation and sale
Of the civil rights of the people

We do not value
The heaps of money of the government
We have enough with stones
The remarkable food of the land

We support Lili‘uokalani
Until we gain the rights of the land
The story is to be told
Of the people who love the land

Ellen Wright Prendergast wrote this “stone-eating song” in 1893 at the urging of members of the Royal Hawaiian Band to express their bitter opposition to annexation of Hawai‘i to the United States. Declaring loyalty to the Queen, it says “we will not sign the paper, but will be satisfied with all that is left to us, the stones, the ‘ai kamaha‘o (mystic, astounding, sustaining, remarkable food) of our native land.” Also known as Mele ‘Ai Pōhaku and He Lei No Nā Po‘e Aloha ‘Aina. Translation by Hui Hānai.