Kaulana Nā Pua

Kaulana nā pua aʻo Hawaiʻi
Kūpaʻa ma hopeʻo kaʻaina
Hiki mai kaʻelele o ka lokoʻino
Palapala ʻāanunu me ka pākaha
Pane mai Hawaiʻi moku o Keawe
Kōkua nā hono aʻo Piʻilani
Kākoʻo mai Kauaʻi o Mano
Paʻa pū me ke one o Kākūhihewa

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

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 Hawaiʻi 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 kamahaʻo (mystic, astounding, sustaining, remarkable food) of our native land.” Also known as Mele ‘Ai Pōhaku and He Lei No Nā Poʻe Aloha ʻĀina. Translation by Hui Hānalai.