Nā Aliʻi

Aloha nā 'ahahui o nā aliʻi
G7
Nā aliʻi mai nā kūpuna mai
C7
E paʻa i nā ʻōlelo kaulana
F
E hele a moe i ke ala
C7
Hū wale aʻe nā hoʻomanaʻo ʻana
G7
No nā aliʻi kaulana
C7
Ua pau, ua hala lākou
F
A koe nō nā pua
C7
Ua pau, ua hala lākou
A koe nō nā pua

E lei i ka lei haʻaheo o Hawaiʻi
G7
Ka wehi hoʻi o nā aliʻi i hala
C7
E paʻa ka manaʻo me ka lōkahi
F
E mau ke ea o ka ʻāina i ka pono
C7
He aliʻi ʻo Kalani ua kaulana
G7
Ka Napolonia o ka Pākīpika
C7
E lei i ka wehi haʻaheo o Hawaiʻi
F
Nā hulu mamo like ʻole
C7
E lei i ka wehi haʻaheo o Hawaiʻi
F
Nā hulu mamo like ʻole

Hail societies of the chief
Chiefs from ancestral times
Remember the famous saying
“Go and sleep safely on the byways”
Memories well up
Of the famous chiefs
They are gone, they have passed away
And their descendants live on
They are gone they have passed away
And their descendants live on

Wear the proud lei of Hawaiʻi
The adornment of departed chiefs
May all unite in recalling
That the life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness
The royal one is a famous chief
Napoleon of the Pacific
Wear the proud adornments of Hawaiʻi
The mamo-feather leis
Wear the proud adornments of Hawaiʻi
The mamo-feather leis
F
‘Imi nui ‘o Maleka o lōlī‘i
G7
Ka wehi ho‘i o nā ali‘i i hala
C7
‘A‘ole nō na‘e e like aku
F
Me ka mea no‘eau he kupua
G7
He ali‘i ‘o Kalani ua kaulana
C7
Ke ‘ahi kananā o ka Pākīpika
F
Nāna nō i ulupā nā pae moku
C7
A pau ma lalo ona
Nāna nō i ulupā nā pae moku
F
A pau ma lalo ona

Composed by Samuel Kuahiwi around 1928, this tribute to the departed chiefs contains two famous sayings. The first is “E hele a moe i ke aha,” known as Kamehameha’s “Law of the splintered paddle,” which guaranteed the safe passage for women, children and the infirm. The second is “Ua mou ke ea o ka ‘aina i ka pono,” Kamehameha III’s 1843 statement that became Hawai‘i’s motto, and translates “The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness.” Syncopation is important in this song, and depends on the singer gliding the two words “nā” and “ali‘i” together, as is suggested in the original spelling of the title “Na ‘lī.”