Nā Kuahiwi ʻElima

Hoihoi ka piʻina aʻo Waimea
I ka pā mai a ke kēhau anu
ʻAkahi hoʻi au a ʻike maka
I nā wailele pālua i ka pali aʻo Waipiʻo
I nā wailele pālua i ka pali aʻo Waipiʻo
Kilakila Maunakea me kona nani
Helu ʻekahi o ke kiʻekiʻe
Pili mai Maunalōa, mauna kamahaʻo
Home noho o ka wahine Pele mai Kahiki
Home noho o ka wahine Pele mai Kahiki
Hanohano Hualalai e kū maila
E hoʻohiwihwa ana a i nā Kona
Aia la nā kuahiwi o Kohala
Ke holo aʻela mai uka a ke kai
Ke holo aʻela mai uka a ke kai
Ma ʻō aku o ʻAlenuihāna
Haleakalā o Maui o Kama
Haʻina ka puana i lohe ʻia
Mahalo i ka nani o nā kuahiwi ʻelima
Mahalo i ka nani o nā kuahiwi ʻelima

Happy the ascent to Waimea
In the cool, breezy mist
First sight I see
The double waterfalls in the cliffs at Waipiʻo

Majestic is Maunakea with her beauty
Foremost and highest
Close by is Maunaloa, wondrous and awesome mountain
Home where dwells the woman Pele from Tahiti

Magnificent Hualalai rises
Adorning all Kona
There, the mountains of Kohala
Run from the uplands to the sea

Beyond the ʻAlenuihāna channel
Haleakalā of Maui of Kama
Tell the theme that it may be heard
Worthy admiration for the beauty of the five mountains

A travelogue song that addresses the mountains coming into view on a ride up to Waimea and then down to Kawaihae, where Maui comes into view. Helen Desha Beamer was often inspired to compose while enroute to visit friends, an old custom she perpetuated. 1953. Translation by Mahiʻai Beamer.