Pearly Shells/Pupu a’o ‘Ewa (Shells of ‘Ewa)--Traditional

C
Pearly shells (pearly shells)  
C7
From the ocean (from the ocean)

F
Shining in the sun (shining in the sun)

G7
Covering the shore (covering the shore)

C         C7
When I see them (when I see them)

F
My heart tells me that I love you

C                     G7                  C
More than all those little pearly shells.

G7                     C
More than all those little pearly shells.

C
Pupu (a’o ‘Ewa)  Shells of ‘Ewa

C7
I ka nu’a [nuku] (na kanaka)  Throngs of people

F
E naue [lawe] mai (a e ‘ike)  Coming to learn

G7
I ka mea hou (o ka ‘aina)  The news of the land

C         C7
A he ‘aina (ua kaulana)  A land famous

F
Mai na kupuna mai  From the ancient times

C         G7                  C
Alahula Pu’uloa he ala hele no Ka’ahupahau (Ka’ahupahau)  All of Pu’uloa, the path

G7                     C
Alahula Pu’uloa he ala hele no Ka’ahupahau (Ka’ahupahau)  trod upon
by Ka’ahupahau
Nani Ka`ala hemolele i ka malie  
*Beautiful Ka`ala, sublime in the calm*

Kuahiwi kaulana a`o `Ewa  
*Famous mountain of `Ewa*

E kiʻi ana i ka makani o ka ʻaina  
*That fetches the wind of the land*

Hea ka Moaʻe, eia au e ke aloha  
*The tradewind calls, “here I am, beloved”.*

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Source: Na Mele `O Hawai`i Nei by Elbert & Mahoe, Olowalu Massacre by Aubrey Janion - The news of the land was the discovery of pearl oysters at Pu`uloa, the Hawaiian name for Pearl Harbor, that was protected by Ka`ahupāhau, the shark goddess. Ka`ala is the highest mountain on O`ahu and Polea is located in `Ewa. Nu`a and naue in the chorus is often interchanged with nuku (mouth) and lawe (bring). Moa`e is the name of a tradewind. In 1909, the Navy issued a $1.7 million contract for construction of the first Pearl Harbor dry dock. Kapuna Kanakeawe, a Hawaiian fisherman, told the contractor to build it in another location as the spot they selected was the home of Ka`ahupāhau. Work stopped after 3 months as things kept going wrong. Cement would not pour and the contractor could not pump water out of the dry dock. February 17, 1913, 2 years behind schedule, opening ceremonies were held. Then it exploded. One man was killed, $4,000,000 lost and 4 years of work demolished. Another contract was issued in November, 1914. As work progressed, the early warning given by Kanakeawe was remembered. Mrs. Puahi, a kahuna, was called, and instructed the foreman, David Richards, in the necessary rituals to appease Ka`ahupāhau and safeguard the project. After sacrifices were made, prayers chanted and rituals performed, the project was declared safe. When the bottom was pumped out, the skeleton of a 14-foot shark was discovered. Pearl Harbor was also the site of ancient Hawaiian fishponds.