Pua ‘Ōlena

Pua ‘ōlena, pua moe wale
I ka nahele e moe nei
Ka ua noe makali‘i
E ala mai, hō‘ike mai i kou nani
Pua ‘ōlena, pua ‘ōlena

Pua ‘ōlena, dream filled beauty
Of my garden deep in slumber
Kissed by misty summer rain
Come with me, come let’s see of your beauty
Pua ‘ōlena, pua ‘ōlena

Lau ‘ōlena, lau pālulu
E pe‘e nei kau mōhala
‘O ka makani hāwanawana
Hō‘ike nei, pua ‘ōlena, i kou nani
Pua ‘ōlena, pua ‘ōlena

Ha‘ina mai ka puana
Pua moe wale, pua moe ‘ole
I ka nahele o Hanalei
Come with me, come let’s see of your beauty
Pua ‘ōlena, pua ‘ōlena

Ólena flower, blossom that sleeps
In the forest, slumbering
The fine, misty rains appear
Awaken, display your beauty
‘Ólena flower, ‘ōlena flower

Ólena leaf, sheltering
Your blossoming forth is concealed
The wind whispers to you
‘Ólena flower, show your beauty
‘Ólena flower, ‘ōlena flower

The story is in the refrain
Of the slumbering flower
not really asleep
In the forest of Hanalei
Come with me, come let’s see of your beauty
‘Ólena flower, ‘ōlena flower

The ‘ōlena blossom hides under the thickness of its own leaves, emerging to be seen only briefly during its flowering span, then returning to dormancy in this song by James Kalei Kaho‘olokula, Sr. The choice of a particular flower is an effective metaphor in Hawaiian poetry, allowing particular attributes to invoke images or imply kaona.