

Aloha 'Oe

Aloha 'Oe (Farewell to Thee) was written by Queen Lili'uokalani (1838-1917), the last reigning queen of Hawaii - and a Latter-day Saint convert.

This was included in the 1949 Recreational Songs. In Hawaii, Latter-day Saints sing the chorus in Hawaiian at the end of Sacrament Meeting to say farewell to those leaving the ward that week - singing it over and over until everyone has had a chance to come forward to hug, kiss, and put a lei over the departee's shoulders. It is a very tender, heartfelt farewell that is long remembered. The lyrics were always glued into the back of the hymnal - we were in Hawaii when the current hymnal came out and a copy of this song is still glued in the back of my hymnal. Having been stationed in Hawaii in the military, we sang it often for those departing to new military assignments.

Ha'aheo ka ua i nā pali	Proudly swept the rain by the cliffs
Ke nihi a'ela i ka nahele	As it glided through the trees
E hahai (uhai) ana paha i ka liko	Still following ever the bud
Pua 'āhihi lehua o uka	The 'āhihi lehua of the vale
Hui:	Chorus:
Aloha 'oe, aloha 'oe	<i>Farewell to Thee, farewell to Thee</i>
E ke onaona noho i ka lipo	<i>The charming one who dwells in the shaded bowers</i>
One fond embrace,	<i>One fond embrace,</i>
A ho'i a'e au	<i>'Ere I depart</i>
Until we meet again	<i>Until we meet again</i>
'O ka hali'a aloha i hiki mai	Sweet memories come back to me
Ke hone a'e nei i	Bringing fresh remembrances
Ku'u manawa	Of the past
'O 'oe nō ka'u ipo aloha	Dearest one, yes, you are mine own
A loko e hana nei	From you, true love shall never depart
Maopopo ku'u 'ike i ka nani	I have seen and watched your loveliness
Nā pua rose o Maunawili	The sweet rose of Maunawili
I laila hia'ia nā manu	And 'tis there the birds of love dwell
Miki'ala i ka nani o ka lipo	And sip the honey from your lips

This song of farewell is the most famous of the Queen's compositions, written in 1878. Lahilahi Webb and Virginia Dominis Koch tell of a visit by the queen and her attendants to Maunawili Ranch, the

home of Edwin Boyd on windward Oahu. As they started their return trip to Honolulu on horseback up the steep Pali trail, the queen turned to admire the view of Kaneohe Bay. She witnessed a particularly affectionate farewell between Colonel James Boyd of her party and a lovely young girl from Maunawili. As they rode up the steep cliff and into the swirling winds, she started to hum this melody weaving words into a romantic song. At the top of the pali, a cloud hung over the mountain peak and slowly floated down Nu`uanu Valley. The queen continued to hum and completed her song as they rode the winding trail down the valley back to Honolulu.

Another story tells of the Queen witnessing the forced farewell between two lovers - one a royalty and one a commoner.

The tune of the verse resembles "The Rock Beside the Sea", composed by Charles Crozat Converse and published in Philadelphia, 1857. The melody of the chorus is remarkably close to the chorus of George F. Root's composition, "There's Music In The Air", published in 1854.

Part of this song is sung in part by older sister Nani in Disney's "Lilo and Stitch".