



Oli Wa'a Holomua

Na Puanani & Kekoa Kama

In January 2024, OHCRA undertook a SWOT exercise that surfaced a clear call to lōkahi and greater unity across clubs and generations throughout Hawai'i. In response, the OHCRA issued a kahea for the commissioning of an oli that could embody this shared intention and strengthen connection within the wa'a community. Over the past two years, Puanani Kama has carried this work with care and cultural grounding, drawing upon 'ike kūpuna and 'ike wa'a to craft an oli that serves as both ceremonial expression and living reminder of our collective kuleana. This oli is offered as a unifying voice for OHCRA and all paddlers, honoring our shared past while calling us forward together as one wa'a.

This oli is a call for unity, strength, and forward movement for the canoe 'ohana of OHCRA. It opens with the exhortation "Pūpūkahi i holomua" to unite so that all may progress and identifies the koa canoe clubs of OHCRA as the collective body being called forward. The chant then grounds this unity in the chiefly legacy of Mā'ilikūkahi, invoking an era when O'ahu was organized, cared for, and strengthened through wise leadership.

A powerful summons follows: "E ala e nā mamo a Kanaloa" a call for the descendants and ocean people of Kanaloa to rise. The oli follows the path Hi'i'aka traveled around O'ahu on her wa'a. A succession of named winds and rains of the Ko'olau ('Āpuakea, Moa'e, Kaniko'o) acknowledge the natural forces that shape and enliven these lands and seas. These elemental references ground paddlers to their surroundings and to the spiritual power of place.

The oli then honors the pahu of Kūkaniloko, symbolizing the foundational heartbeat and chiefly authority of O'ahu. It travels west recognizing Wai'anae and the Kaiaulu breeze, the life-giving spirit of that moku. It continues into the ocean realm, acknowledging the abundance of oysters (the silent fish) and the peaceful sea of Ka'ahupāhau, guardian of Pu'uloa.

The winds 'Olauniu and the waters of Māmala Bay are also invoked, reminding paddlers of the changing winds, seas, and conditions they traverse in and around the island. Repeated is the call for the descendants of Kanaloa, reaffirming the identity of OHCRA's paddling 'ohana as ocean people tied to the land, sea, and ancestral knowledge.

The oli closes where it began in unity, reconnecting the koa canoe clubs of OHCRA, reaffirming the need to move forward together, and ends with a strong, resounding call:

"Eō, Wa'a Holomua!"

A proclamation that the canoes, the paddlers, and the collective movement toward progress are alive, present, and ready

Oli Wa'a Holomua

Na Puanani & Kekoa Kama

Mea Oli

Pūpūkahi i holomua

Hui

Pūpūkahi i holomua
Nā hui wa'a koa o O'ahu

Mea Oli

O'ahu o Ma'ilikūkahi
E ala e nā mamo a Kanaloa

Hui

E ala e nā mamo a Kanaloa
Loa ka mo'o ua 'Āpuakea
'Āhiu, Ka Moa'e, Ua Kaniko'o

Mea Oli

'Āhiu, Ka Moa'e, Ua Kaniko'o
Ko'o nā pahu o Kūkaniloko
Ola Waiānae ka makani Kaiaulu

Hui

Ola Waiānae ka makani Kaiaulu

Mea Oli

Ulu manomano i'a hāmau leo
Ke kai malolo 'O Ka'ahupāhau

Hui

Hau maila ka makani 'Olauniu
'O Kona kai a'o māmala

Mea Oli

E ala e nā mamo a Kanaloa

Hui

O'ahu o Ma'ilikūkahi

Mea Oli

Nā hui wa'a koa o O'ahu
Pūpūkahi i holomua

Hui

Pūpūkahi i holomua. E
Eō, Wa'a Holomua!

Translation

Together we move forward

Together move forward

The canoe clubs of OHCRA

O'ahu of Ma'ilikūkahi (chief)

Wake up, descendants of Kanaloa

Wake up, descendants of Kanaloa

Many are the generations of the rain 'Āpuakea
The wind 'Āhiu, Ka Moa'e and the rain Kaniko'o

The wind 'Āhiu, Ka Moa'e and the rain Kaniko'o
The drums of Kūkaniloko stand as pillars
Give life to Wai'anae and the Kaiaulu wind

Give life to Wai'anae and the Kaiaulu wind

Countless are the pearl oysters of Ewa
In the tranquil sea of Ka'ahupāhau

The 'Olauniu breeze travels gently
The sea of Māmala in the district of Kona

Wake up, descendants of Kanaloa

O'ahu of Ma'ilikūkahi (chief)

The canoe clubs of OHCRA

Together move forward

Together move forward

May the canoe live on and move forward