

‘Akaka Falls (Ka Wailele ‘O ‘Akaka)

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Malihini ku‘u ‘ike ‘ana
I kahi wailele ‘o ‘Akaka
Kau mai lā i luna
Lele hunehune maila i nā pali

The first time I saw
The waterfall of ‘Akaka
Appearing up there above
Leaping in spray from the cliffs

Kau nui aku kahi mana‘o
A‘e ‘ike lihi aku i ka nani
Ia uka i puā
I ke ‘ala me ke onaona

This memory looms large
The glimpse of the beauty
In the uplands perfumed
With fragrance and sweetness

Onaona wale ho‘i ia uka
I ka pa‘a mau ‘ia e ka noe
Ia uka kūpaoa
E moani nei i ku‘u poli

Uplands sweetly scented indeed
Held fast by the mists
Those uplands permeated with fragrance
That wafts to my bosom

I ne‘e aku au e ‘ako
I ka pua o ka ‘awapuhi
I lei no ka malihini
Na‘u ia a e honi

I move to pluck
The blossoms of ginger
As a lei for the newcomer
It is I who shall enjoy it

Na ke Akua mana loa
E kia‘i maluhia mai
I kēia mau pua
O ku‘u ‘āina aloha

Almighty God
Guards the peace
Of the many flowers
Of my beloved land

Ha‘ina ‘ia mai ka puana
I kahi wailele ‘o ‘Akaka
Kau maila i luna
Lele hunehune maila i nā pali

The story is told
The waterfall of ‘Akaka
Appearing up there above
Leaping in spray from the cliffs