

Ka Wai a ke Ola

THE WATER OF LIFE



Hawaiian Spiritual Views
on Water and Watershed







- Cultivation of kalo was mens' work.
- 'Awa was primarily a drink for men, and associated with offerings to the family 'aumakua (guardian ancestral spirits).
- The duty of such offerings went to the male head of household, reflected in traditional chant.





*Awake, it is dawn, it is light
People are moving about above
The red wreath of morning is here
For you is prepared your 'awa
Dark 'awa, light 'awa
Rooster and hen
Orion's belt is fled across the sky
I am still halfway in the spirit world*

*It is the spirit essence indeed
From Kahikiku to Kahikimoe
From Kahikikapakapaua, O Kane
Here in this prayer is the earnest
Supplication to you, O Akua –
Grant life!*

Where is the water of Kāne?

A query, a question: I ask of you
Where is the water of Kāne?
There at the sunrise, the rays break forth
There at that place is the water of Kāne



I ask of you: Where is the water of Kāne?
There in the uplands, on the ridges
In the valleys, in the streams
There at that place is the water of Kāne



I ask of you: Where is the water of Kāne?
There above is the water of Kāne
In the dark heights, in the black cloud
In the thick, blue-black cloud
In the purple-red cloud of Kāne
There at that place is the water of Kāne



Where is the water of Kāne?



I ask of you: Where is the water of Kāne?
There at the sun set
At the clustering cloudbank in the air
Coming from Nihoa, at the root from Lehua
There at that place is the water of Kāne



I ask of you: Where is the water of Kāne?
There at the sea, at the ocean
At the seawind–rain, at the full–rainbow
At the low–rainbow, at the blood–red rain
In the lofty heights
There at that place is the water of Kāne



I ask of you: Where is the water of Kāne?
There below, on earth, in gushing water
In water placed by Kāne and Kanaloa
A spring, water to drink, mana–giving water
Life–giving water, let there be life indeed, eā



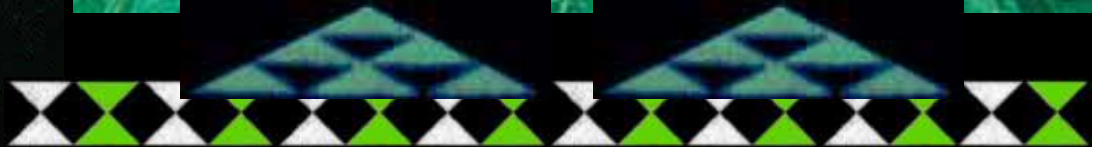
Lono

**Your manifestations, O Lono, are in the heavens:
The long cloud, the short cloud, the emerging cloud,
The peering cloud, cloud coming forth in the heavens**



Eia ka wai la
Ka wai a ke ola
E ola nō e!

Here is the water
The water of life
Bring life!





Upland Watershed
Wao Akua
Realm of the Gods



