

Speech by Pualani Johnson at opening ceremony for 2022 KEAKA festival

Aloha kākou....a e ho‘okipa mai i ke kula nui o kēia moku o Keawe, e nā mea ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i

- ... i ke ola
- ...i ke kula
- ...i ka papa
- ...i ka ‘ohana....
- a...i kēia wahi kekahi, ‘o ia ho‘i ke kahua o ka hale keaka!

Eia ko‘u mana‘o no ka wehena o kēia ‘aha hana keaka:

Kama‘aina ‘oukou i kēlā kanaka ‘eleu wale, e ā?

‘O Elvis Presley? Ua himeni ‘o ia i ke mele,

“Dreams come true, in Blue Hawai‘i” Ae?

‘O ia i‘o kēlā; pololei ‘o ia! He moemoeā kēia ‘aha no‘u no ka manawa lō‘ihi.

Eia ka mo‘olelo: Ua hana au ma‘ane‘i no kanakolukumāwalu makahiki. Ma ka mua o kēlā wā, ua hele au i ke kula ki‘eki‘e o Hilo High e ‘ike i kekahi hana keaka. Ua noho au i laila....ua nānā a i ao..

“He aha kēia?” Ua noi au iho? “He hana keaka i ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i!”

Na Tammy Haili‘ōpua Baker kēlā hana keaka a ua ‘ike au i ka mea like‘ole:

- maika‘i loa ka mo‘olelo o ka wā kahiko,
- maika‘i ka ‘eleu o nā mea hana keaka a pau
- maikai‘i LOA ka lohe ‘ana i ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i ma kēlā kahua.

No laila, kokoke i ka hopena o ka‘u hana ma‘ane‘i, ua no‘ono‘o au: makemake au e kūkulu i ka ‘aha hana keaka i ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i ma‘ane‘i.... ma ke kula nui. Eia ko‘u mana‘o: kūkulu kekahi wahi no nā mea a pau e hana ai i ka hana keaka i ka ‘olelo Hawai‘i e like me ke Kumu kaulana “O Haili‘ōpua Baker!! No‘ono‘o au i ka mana‘o ma‘amau: “ina kūkulu ‘oe, e hele mai lakou!!”

Pololei kēlā!! Akā pehea e hana ai? Eia ke kumu:

Ka hana nui o kekahi mau po‘e:

- Mea mua: ‘O Justina ‘Ōlalimākiaikalauaki Mattos, ka polopeka hana keaka ma‘anei, ma hope o‘u....
- A me nā kumu o Nawahiokalani‘opu‘u ‘O Ha‘amauliola Aiona a me Kauai Kaina.

‘Eleu wale kēia mau wāhine hana keaka a e ho‘olako lākou no ‘oukou i ka hana keaka like‘ole.

A laila he aha kā lākou mea hou no kēia makahiki, ka manawa ‘ekolu o ka ‘aha? Ua ho‘omākaukau lākou i kekahi mau wīkiō no ‘oukou! Uiiiihā! Ko‘u mana‘o? Ua maika‘i.

Manao‘olana au, e ho‘omau kēlā mau kumu maika‘i loa i kēia ‘aha pā ‘elua makahiki, mau..... a mau...a mau.....a pēlā aku.....

A laila, aloha hou iā Kumu Haili‘ōpua no ka mea, ua kīpapa ‘o ia i nā pōhaku lawa pono i ke ala no kākou a pau e huli a holo i ka lanakila!

Pīhoihoi au!!! E ho‘omaka ka ‘aha..... KEAKA!