

"Mommie, wasn't the dear Lord kind to us?"

"Yes, *Keola*, the dear Lord has always been very kind to us all, but why do you ask?"

"Because, Mommie, I think he was extra kind to us."

And again, his little head turned this way and that as he looked at the land, the sky, and the sea.

"Everything beautiful that the dear Lord made, he put a *lei* around. He put clouds around the mountains. He put the shade around the trees, and the waves around the islands. Wasn't he kind to give all those beautiful things a *lei* to wear?"

That was a very wonderful thought, coming from the heart of a six-year-old Hawaiian boy. What a precious gift *Keola* gave us, a lovely part of his heart that we can pass on to our friends.

With each telling, the warmth of his heart is extended further and further.

"A *Lei* for *Keola*" is so beautiful that I thought it should be told in a poetic Hawaiian chant:

HE LEI KEAKEA The White Lei

He lei keakea noho mai i ka mauna

The soft white lei encircles the crest of the mountain

Ka mauna ki'eki'e i luna kū kilakila

The mountain high above standing in great

majesty

Kilakila nō luna

Majestic on high,

Nō luna i ke ao

Bedded in the clouds.

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