

Lē‘ahi
na Mary Pūla‘a Robins
interpretation by Kaliko Trapp

Lē‘ahi, ‘uhe‘uhene Kaimana Hila, ‘uhe‘uhene Hokua o ka ‘ale kai Māmala, ‘uhe‘uhene	Lē‘ahi Kaimana Hila ¹ The shoulder of the swell at Māmala Bay ²
Mālama pono ‘oe, ‘uhe‘uhene I ka poe pele, ‘uhe‘uhene O ili kāua i ka pūko‘a, ‘uhe‘uhene	Better watch out For the buoy with the bell ³ Lest you and I run aground on the coral head
Ka poe kaulana, ‘uhe‘uhene Kau i ka nuku, ‘uhe‘uhene Nāna e ho‘owali nei i ka moana, ‘uhe‘uhene	That famous buoy ⁴ Set at the entrance Assuaging the open seas ⁵
Hā‘awi ke aloha, ‘uhe‘uhene Lūlū lima, ‘uhe‘uhene Me nā huapala maka onaona, ‘uhe‘uhene	Greet with <i>aloha</i> Shake hands With all of the fancy looking “sweeties”
Kau aku ‘oe, ‘uhe‘uhene I ke ka‘api‘o, ‘uhe‘uhene E pā ana ka uepa kiani, ‘uhe‘uhene	Take a ride ⁶ Upon the carriage The hand whip cracks
Kūpaianaha, ‘uhe‘uhene Kahi kalaiwa, ‘uhe‘uhene Ka lawe nō a kīki‘i pau, ‘uhe‘uhene	Really quite amazing That driver of the carriage Making one lean all the way back in the seat ⁷
Ha‘ina, ‘uhe‘uhene Mai ka puana, ‘uhe‘uhene Ka poe kaulana kau i ka nuku, ‘uhe‘uhene	Let it be told The story of the song That renowned buoy at the entrance
Ha‘ina, ‘uhe‘uhene Mai ka puana, ‘uhe‘uhene Goodbye kāua e ke aloha, ‘uhe‘uhene	Let it be told The story of the song That I have to say goodbye to you my friend

Please note that throughout the song, the repeated words “*‘uhe‘uhene*” really give us a feel of happiness and fun and playing around and joking or laughing. This is important to the whole story and relates to each line!

¹ Lē‘ahi and Kaimana Hila are two names for Diamond Head, Honolulu. Lē‘ahi is the “original” name.

² Perhaps this line is referring to a person who is being compared to Diamond Head in looks and strength.

³ Double meaning. The “*poe*” is either a buoy or a boy. Also could refer to a “bell boy” (from English).

⁴ Or “boy”

⁵ This line has a double meaning. It is obviously in context with the buoy, but it could also be referring to the “boy” who is a “smooth talker” or a “smooth mover”.

⁶ Literally, you get aboard.

⁷ Because of the speed of acceleration.