ALOHA 'OE

(written by Queen Lili'uokalani)

Chorus: Aloha 'oe, Aloha 'oe

(A-lo-ha oh-eh-a) (A-lo-ha oh-eh-a)

E ke onaona noho I ka lipo

(Ee-kay oh-na-oh-a nah-no ee kay I-ee-po)

One fond embrace

A ho'i a'e au

(a-hoy ee-ahh ee-ohh)

Until we meet again

Aloha 'Oe was composed in 1878 by Queen Lili'uokalani, Hawaiian monarch, and is now a common cultural symbol for Hawaii.

One day, the queen was leaving Maunawili Ranch nestled against the Ko'olau Mountains on the windward side of Oahu. Riding horseback home towards Honolulu, the legend tells that Queen Lili'uokalani witnessed what she went on to describe in the song, most notably a farewell between Colonel James Harbottle Boyd and a young Maunawili girl.

Five years later in August of 1883, Aloha 'Oe made its mainland debut in San Francisco.

Within a year, Aloha 'Oe was published all over the world. The song was sung as ships entered and left from Honolulu Harbour and became known as a bittersweet farewell song for the monarchy.