

The word “aloha” is much more than just a greeting—it has a deeper meaning that conveys cultural beliefs about how to treat others. In 1970, the governor of Hawai‘i assembled a panel of community leaders to define “aloha.” Pilahi Pahi, a beloved philosopher, linguist, and culture bearer, gave an impassioned speech to the group about the history and legacy of “aloha.” She presented an acronym:

Akahi—meaning kindness, to be expressed with tenderness

Lōkahi—meaning unity, to be expressed with harmony

‘Olu‘olu—meaning agreeable, to be expressed with pleasantness

Ha‘aha‘a—meaning humility, to be expressed with modesty

Ahonui—meaning patience, to be expressed with perseverance

In 1986, the state of Hawai‘i adopted a statute that made the spirit of “aloha” a law and included Kumu Pihali’s teachings (kumu means “teacher”). The statute reads, in part:

“Aloha” is more than a word of greeting or farewell or a salutation. “Aloha” means mutual regard and affection and extends warmth in caring with no obligation in return. “Aloha” is the essence of relationships in which each person is important to every other person for collective existence. “Aloha” means to hear what is not said, to see what cannot be seen and to know the unknowable.

“Aloha Spirit” is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. It brings each person to the self. Each person must think and emote good feelings to others. These are traits of character that express the charm, warmth and sincerity of Hawaiian people. It was the working philosophy of native Hawaiians and was presented as a gift to the people of Hawai‘i. “Aloha” is more than a word of greeting or farewell or a salutation.

This original song by Ruth Morris Gray celebrates Hawaiian culture and works to promote the concept of “aloha” in our daily lives. The text is based on the five traits of “aloha” as taught by Kumu Pihali.

Hawaiian Pronunciation

Aloha akahi *ah-LOH-hah ah-kah-hah-ee*

Aloha lōkahi *ah-LOH-hah loh-kah-hee*

Aloha ‘olu‘olu *ah-LOH-hah OH-loo-OH-loo*

Ha‘aha‘a ahonui *hah-AH-hah-AH ah-HOH-noo-ee*

ALOHA SPIRIT

for 3-part mixed voices and piano
with optional SoundTrax*

Words and Music by
RUTH MORRIS GRAY

With enthusiasm (♩ = ca. 100-112)

HANDCLAPS

PIANO

E A E B

mf

3

PARTS I & II

mf

E A C#m B E

A -

* Also available for 2-part (49668).
SoundTrax CD available (49669). Visit alfred.com for digital scores and audio.

PERFORMANCE SUGGESTIONS:

Chord symbols are provided for ukulele.

Play eighth notes on a shaker throughout, adding a whole note (shake) in the final measure.

Add other authentic percussion as desired.

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To purchase a full-length performance recording of this piece, go to alfred.com/downloads

5

lo - ha — a - ka - ha - i, — a -

B

7

lo - ha — lō - ka - hi A -

E

9

lo - ha — o - lu - 'o - lu, — ha - 'a -

E7 A

11

ha - 'a, — a - ho - nu - i.

E/B B7 E B

13

PART III

mp

Giv - ing kind - ness — with warmth and ten - der - ness,

E B

mp

15

seek - ing har - mo - ny.

E B

17

Be - ing pa - tient — and a - gree - a - ble,

E A

19

show - ing — hu - mil - i - ty.

E/B B⁷ E A

mf

21 (handclaps)

Handclap notation: x x x |

Chords: E B E A

23 24

Chords: C#m B E

Vocal: A - lo - ha a - ka -
Giv - ing kind - ness

Dynamic: *mf*

25

Chord: B

Vocal: ha a - lo - ha lo - ka
with warmth and ten - der - ness, seek - ing har - mo -

27

hi. A - lo - ha — 'o - lu -
 ny. Be - ing pa - tient —

E E7

29

'o - lu, — ha - 'a -
 and a - gree - a - ble,

A

30

ha - a - ho - nu - i.
 show - ing — hu - mil - i - ty.

E/B B7 E

32

PART I *f*

Spread a - lo - ha a - cross the land, _____

PART II *f*

A - cross the land, _____

PART III *f*

A - cross the land, _____

A E F#m7 E/G# E F#m E/G#

f

34

from sea to sea.

from sea to sea. _____

Share a - lo - ha from sea to sea.

A E A G D B(sus4) B

36

Then all peo - ple will live as one in

Will live as one

Then all peo - ple will live as one

A E F#m7 E/G# E F#m E/G#

38

u - ni - ty. A -

in u - ni - ty. A -

in u - ni - ty.

F#m B

mf

40

lo - ha a - ka - ha - i, a -

lo - ha a - ka - ha - i, a -

mf-f

Giv - ing kind - ness with warmth and ten - der - ness

E B

42

lo - ha lō - ka - hi. A

lo - ha lō - ka - hi. A

seek - ing har - mo - ny.

A/B B E

44

lo - ha 'o - lu - 'o - lu, ha - 'a -

lo - ha 'o - lu - 'o - lu, ha - 'a -

Be - ing pa - tient and a - gree - a - ble

1. *f*

ha - 'a, a - ho - nu - i. A -

ha - 'a, a - ho - nu - i. A -

show - ing hu - mil - i - ty.

46

1. *f*

ha - 'a, a - ho - nu - i. A -

ha - 'a, a - ho - nu - i. A -

show - ing hu - mil - i - ty.

E/B B7 E *f*

48 2. *mf* 49

i. A - lo - ha 'o - lu -

i. A - lo - ha 'o - lu -

ty.

2. E *mf* B E

50 *rit.* *mp*

'o - lu, ha - 'a ha - 'a, a - ho - nu - i.

rit. *mp*

'o - lu, ha - 'a - ha - 'a, a - ho - nu - i.

rit. *mf* *mp*

A - ho - nu - i.

A E E/B B⁷ E

rit. *mp*