

Papahānaumokuākea Mele (Song) Long Version Lyrics and Ukulele Chords

This song is called Papahānaumokuākea. It speaks of the union between Papa, Mother Earth, and Wākea, Sky Father, who gave birth to the Hawaiian Islands - and especially the tiny atolls which lay to the northwest of the main islands. It also describes some of the plants and animals that inhabit the atolls and why it is so important to protect this sacred place...

Vamp A7-D7-G

CHORUS

G
Papahānaumokuākea
D G
Sacred islands way out they-yah
C G
Born of Papa and Wākea
D G
Papahānaumokuākea...

Vamp

NAME

G
Papa is the Mother Earth,
D G
Hānau means "to give bir-irth"
G
Moku is the name for island
D G
Ākea the Sky Fa -Ther...

Vamp

FORMATION

G
Ancient islands towered high
D G
Rising up into the sky-ee
G
'Roded by wind, rain and sea
G D G
Atolls they would someday be...

Vamp

PLANTS

G
On the 'aina plants would grow
D G
Naupaka and 'akoko
C G
Pōhuehue, 'āheahea
D G
Papahānaumokuākea...

Vamp

ANIMALS

G
Creatures crossed the ocean blue
D G
Birds and fish insects too
C G
Honu, monk seal, manō, 'ahi
D G
Followed by some mahimahi...

Vamp

NESTING BIRDS

G
Many birds make homes of these D G
Atolls scattered ‘cross the sea
G
Nest in shrubs and on the land
D G
Some dig burrows in the sand...

Vamp

MIGRATORY BIRDS

G
Some birds come here for the winter
D G
Migrate north for summer time,
G
'Akekeke and kōlea
D G
Papahānaumokuākea...

Vamp

WHALES

G
Koholā start breaching – WOW!
D G
Transcending from pō to ao
G
Giant creatures of the sea
D G
Come here to hānau keiki...

Vamp

MONK SEAL

G
‘Īlio - holo - i – ka – uaua
D G
Native seal of Hawai‘i,
G
Dog that goes in the rough uaua
D G
Papahānaumokuākea...

Vamp

HONU

G
Honu come from ‘round Hawai‘i
D G
Mate and lay their eggs out there,
G
Nests will hatch under nā hōkū
D G
Hatchling scramble everywhere...

Vamp

VOYAGING

G
Traveled to by ancestors
D G
Sacred sites upon the Earth
G
Voyaged to by Hōkūle‘a
D G
Papahānaumokuākea...

Vamp

ATOLL NAMES:

NIHOA

G
Beyond Kaua'i and Ni'ihau
D G
Ni-ho-a stands tall and proud
G
Wahi pana- sacred places
D G
And nā mea makamae...

Vamp

MOKUMANAMANA

G
Past Nihoa – Mokumanamana
D G
Island of great spirit power
G
People went to pray out they-yah
D G
Papahānaumokuākea...

Vamp

LALO

G
Lalo is next in line
D G
Crescent atoll lost in time
G
Honu basking on the sho-ore,
D G
He'e cross the ocean floor...

Vamp

'ŌNŪNUI, 'ŌNŪIKI

G
'Ōnūnui and 'Ōnūiki
D G
Rocks that pop out of the se-ee
G
Like a honu up for ay-yah
D G
Papahānaumokuākea...

Vamp

KAMOKUOKAMOHOALI'I

G
Kamokuokamohoali'i
D G
Pele's brother shark is he-ee
G
Only reef - no islands they-yer
D G
Manō swimming ev'ry where...

Vamp

KAMOLE

G
Kamole has a lake within
D G
Ducks eat flies around its rim
G
Some birds went extinct out they-yah
D G
Papahānaumokuākea...

Vamp

KAPOU

G
Kapou island flat and round
D G
Shrubs and grasses on the ground
G
Bonin Petrels nest out here
D G
Everything looks crystal clear...

Vamp

MANAWAI

G
Manawai is quite an atoll
D G
Emerald waters lap the shore
G
White sand causes lots of glay-yah
D G
Papahānaumokuākea...

Vamp

KUAIHELANI

G
Kuaihelani famous for
D G
Mōlī nesting on the sand.
G
Fly for years across the ocean
D G
Crashing when they try to land...

Vamp

HŌLANIKŪ

G
Hōlanikū is the last atoll
D G
In the archipelago
G
Lots of ocean space past they-yah
D G
Papahānaumokuākea...

Vamp

MALAMA HONUA

G
Nature thrives in harmony
D G
So let's mālama naturally-ee
G
What it takes is our kōkua
D G
To mālama ka honua...

Vamp

ENDING

G
This the ending of our song,
D G
Ma-ha-lo for singing lo-ong
C G
Sacred places need our kay-yah...
D G
Papahānaumokuākea!

PAU (FINISHED)

Song in F: Vamp G7-C7-F, High Bb Song in C: Vamp D7-G7-C, High F Song in D, Vamp E7-A7-D, High G