

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 (2X)

CHORUS

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

Vamp A7-D7-G (2X)

NAME

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

Vamp A7-D7-G (2X)

FORMATION

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

Vamp A7-D7-G (2X)

PLANTS

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

Vamp A7-D7-G (2X)

ANIMALS

G C 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 A7-D7-G (2X)

NESTING BIRDS

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

Vamp A7-D7-G (2X)

MIGRATORY BIRDS

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

Vamp A7-D7-G (2X)

WHALES

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

Vamp A7-D7-G (2X)

MONK SEAL

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

Vamp A7-D7-G (2X)

HONU

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

Vamp A7-D7-G (2X)

VOYAGING

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

Vamp A7-D7-G (2X)

Vamp A7-D7-G (2X)

KAMOKUOKAMOHOALI'I

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

Vamp A7-D7-G (2X)

KAMOLE

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

Vamp A7-D7-G (2X)

KAPOU

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

Vamp A7-D7-G (2X)

MANAWAI

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

Vamp A7-D7-G (2X)

KUAIHELANI

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

Vamp A7-D7-G (2X)

HŌLANIKŪ

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

Vamp A7-D7-G (2X)

MALAMA HONUA

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

Vamp A7-D7-G (2X)

ENDING

G C G
This the ending of our song,
D G
Ma-ha-lo for singing lo-ong

(Sing slowly now...)

