

Funeral Service for Princess Abigail Kawānanakoa

Monday, January 23, 2023
The Chapel at Mauna 'Ala

Billy Richards – Master of Ceremonies

Aloha Mai

Welcome to the funeral services for Princess Abigail Kinoiki Kekaulike Kawānanakoa.

I also want to acknowledge the presence of His Majesty King Tūheitia and his wife, Makau Ariki Atawhai. He journeyed here from Aotearoa to pay respect to his great friend, Abigail. The King offered his personal protocol to her yesterday afternoon as she lay in state in the Throne Room at 'Iolani Palace.

That said, he specifically requested that no protocol or ceremony mark his presence today, as this day should be about his friend Abigail and no one else. We humbly thank him for the honor of his presence here today. Mahalo.

We will begin today's service by calling upon Kahu Kordell Kekoa, who is often called upon for spiritual matters here at Mauna 'Ala, to offer the opening prayer and also to lead us in singing the Doxology.

Kahu...

Kahu Kordell Kekoa – Opening Prayer

Aloha kākou. Aloha.

We do come for that time of celebration today. I'm going to ask all who are able, if you would stand with me please.

Kū i luna kākou e 'olu'olu.

Aloha awakea.

Mahalo iā 'oe e ke Akua, i loko o Iesu Kristo e alaka'i mau ana i ka lanakila, a i loko o kākou e laha ai kona 'a'ala o ka na'auao o ke Akua i nā wahi āpau.

We are thankful to You, O Lord, who in Christ always leads us in triumph and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of God — of aloha — everywhere.

So today, as we celebrate the funeral of Her Royal Highness Princess Abigail Kinoiki Kekaulike Kawānanakoa, we ask Your aloha spirit to fill this place with all of Your aloha.

And so we pule this blessing with much aloha.

'Āmene nō ke Akua āpau, 'āmene.

If you know the Doxology, will you sing it with me please?

Ho'onani I Ka Makua Mau (The Doxology)

Ho'onani ka Makua Mau
(Praise God from whom all blessings flow)

Ka Keiki me ka 'Uhane nō
(Praise Him all creatures here below)

Ke Akua Mau ho'omaika'i pū
(Praise Him above ye heavenly host)

Kō kēia ao, kō kēlā ao
(Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost)

'Āmene. *(Amen)*

Mahalo. Noho i lalo kākou, 'olu'olu.

Billy Richards

Mahalo, Kahu.

In 1819, King Kamehameha was living on the Big Island in the Kona area. He was well aware that his time on earth was coming to a close, and a great concern to him was what would happen to his remains once he passed.

The great worry was that someone would take his bones to carve them for use as weapons, fishhooks, and other implements, and in doing so take his mana — his spirit — for their own purposes. So the identity of who would be responsible for his remains was of critical importance.

One night, deep in its darkest hour, all of the King's retainers were summoned to attend him immediately. Sometime later, he looked up at all of them gathered before him in their capes and finery, with their own retainers about them, except for two men who were essentially naked, clad only in their sleeping malo.

He looked around the room and then turned to the two of them and said, "You two will be responsible for my bones. When you received my summons, you gave not a thought to how you looked or who accompanied you. You knew I called, and so you ran naked to serve me. I know then that loyalty means there is nothing that can ever make you share with anyone else the place you lay me."

These two men, Ho'olulu and Hoapili, carried out that kuleana exactly as he foresaw. And to this very day, we do not know where the remains of our nation's founder lie.

The Maioho family, descendants of Ho'olulu, stand as kahu — guardians of Mauna 'Ala — carrying on a legacy now over two centuries old.

The current Kahu, William Bishop Kaihe'ekai Maioho, will speak to our presence here today.

Kahu Kaihe'ekai Maioho – Acknowledgement of Burial

Aloha.

First of all, I want to welcome you to Mauna 'Ala.

I'm William Bishop Kaihe'ekai Maioho, and I'm the seventeenth kahu here at Mauna 'Ala to have this kuleana — to guard the iwi of the ali'i.

Princess Abigail, by birthright, has the right to be here, and it will be an honor to continue to guard and protect her iwi.

Thank you.

Billy Richards

Mahalo.

Manu'aikohana Boyd, Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner, kumu hula, and accomplished artist and musician, will chant the lineage of the Kawānanakoa family.

Princess Abigail would often call upon him for this chant, particularly during events where her lineage was important. One such occasion was yesterday, as her casket arrived at 'Iolani Palace, where he offered her this chant as a gift to her.

And now, once again — and perhaps for one last time — directly to her, he offers this chant.

Manu'aikohana Boyd – Chant of Genealogy

He Manu Ha'i Kupuna No Hainalau

He manu ha'i kupuna no Hainalau,
No Puna, no Hema, no ka welowelo ali'i;
No 'Ahukini-a-La'a o La'amaikahiki,
Nā Kamahano, kū moku a Luanu'u,
'O Kukona-a-La'a, la'a i ke kapu,
I ke kapu hinu ali'i o Manokalanipō,
'O Kalanikaumakamano o Manohili,
I hili, i lino, nā Kahakuakāne,
Nā Kahakumakapāweo a Kalanikukuma,
'O 'Ilihiwalani, ka hiwa pa'a o nā ali'i,
'O Kauhiahwa a Kāneiahaka,
'O ka haka pune i ka papa kī e Kapulaukī,
'O ke kī pe'ape'a kapu o Kulu'ina,
'O ka 'ina'uli hana pa'a i ka papa ko'a;
I ka papa 'apu'apu o Lonoikahā'upu,
Hā'upu Kalani e lele Kaumehe'iwa,
He 'iwa, he manu lele ho'ānoano,

‘O ka ho’āno o ke kapu Kamakahelei o ke ali’i,
‘O Kā’eokūlani, o ka iho kū manawa,
O ka ho’ohowiliwili, ho’ohihia piko a nā ali’i,
Puka Kaumuali’i ke ahi lapalapa,
Ke kuku’ena e wela ai ka maka o Ulunui,
Kalo ‘ai ku’eku’e o Kūkaniloko,
He ma’ū lani hanu honu palai no Halemano,
‘O nā ali’i kapu ia o kapali Līhu’e,
‘O Kīkē-nui-a-‘Ewa o ‘Ewa-a-La’akona,
‘O ka ‘ewa ia i pāiki ke kino, i kino ‘ole,
‘O Kūhiō i ke kapu o Pine,
Puka Kapi’olani wahine i ka ‘iu,
Puka Kekaulike Kinoiki, kino pālanaiki,
I noho iā Kahalepōuli, pū ‘eki a ke aloha lā ē,
Hānau Kawānanakoa, ke koa kumu ‘ole o Kahiki.

Billy Richards

Mahalo.

One of the favorite gifts the Princess ever received was the following name song composed for her by Kimo Alama Keaulana. It always lifted her spirits whenever she heard him sing it.

Kimo is an educator, accomplished musician, singer, and composer, a wealth of knowledge on Hawaiian culture, and someone the Princess relied upon greatly.

Kimo performs as part of the group Lei Hulu. Joining him today are Frank Damas on bass and Brannon Kealoha on rhythm guitar.

Kimo Alama Keaulana and Lei Hulu

(Frank Damas and Brannon Kealoha)

“Kinoiki Kekaulike”

Hiehie ka wahine he lani ali’i,
Ka beauty lua ‘ole o ke ao nei,
Kaulana Hawai’i i ka nani o nā pua,
‘O ‘oe nō ia kau i ka heke,
Onaona kou ‘ala i o’u nei,
Noho mau i ku’u poli pumehana,
Ke nani o ke ānuenuē pipi’o i luna nou,
He lei kau i kou po’ohiwi,
Ha’ina ka inoa ua lohe ‘ia,
‘O Kinoiki Kekaulike he inoa.