

GREEN ROSE HULA

Laida Paia/John K. Almeida

No ka pua loke lau ke aloha
No ka u'i kau i ka wēkiu

My love goes to the green rose
The blossom I esteem the highest

Kō 'ala onaona i 'ane'i
Ho'olale mai ana e walea

Its fragrance reaches me here
Inviting my thoughts to be carefree

E walea pū aku me 'oe
I ka hana no'eau ho'oipo

To spend the time pleasantly with you
In the delightful pastime of wooing

A he ipo 'oe na'u i aloha
Ka 'ano'i a ku'u pu'uwai

You are the sweetheart I love
The darling of my heart

Ka hā'upu ka hali'a ka 'i'ini
Me 'oe mau aku nō ia

May recollection, remembrance
And desire always be with you

Ho'i mai kāua lā e pili
'Oiai ka manawa kūpono

Now, now is the time
For us to be together

Ha'ina 'ia mai ka puana
Nou nō green rose ke aloha

This is the end of my song
For you, beloved green rose

Source: Na Mele Aloha - The green rose is called the "leaf rose". Laida Paia, Mrs. James Keoni Willis, a member of John Almeida's trio composed this mele although it has always been attributed to Almeida. She was the mother of Koko Willis and John acknowledged and always gave her due credit when he performed it, especially when Koko or other members of her family were in the audience. Confirmed by Pali Lee, wife of Koko Willis who died in 1994. Music clip by Lani Lee. Translated by Mary Pukui, Hawaiian Text edited by Puakea Nogelmeier